



Fundraising for boxing gym.
(See page 7).

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THURSDAY, MAY 10TH, 2012

Pensioner is jailed on a counterfeit cash charge

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

WHEN police stopped and searched a vehicle on the Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend, they found £7,870 in counterfeit £10 notes.

The driver of the vehicle, who was described in Cardiff Crown Court as a "courier" was jailed for a year.

David Ivor Jones (65) of South Close, Pencoed, Bridgend, was found guilty of possessing counterfeit money.

Prosecutor James Wilson said the police searched Jones' vehicle last May and found the cash in a box.

He denied the charge and said he had been asked to transfer the

cash, which he believed to be genuine, from Bristol to south Wales.

His counsel, Andrew Davies, said: "The court should take into account his age. References speak of his positive qualities and his integrity and his dependability."

"He is a loving father and grandfather. He has always been hard working and industrious, until he broke his spine in an accident at work."

"He was at a significant distance from the production of this money and was nothing more than a go-between."

Mr Davies said there was no evidence of a lavish lifestyle, and Jones was currently on state benefits.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

FIRST STEPS ON A WALK AROUND WALES!



The Wales Coastal Path opened last weekend and ramblers marked the occasion with a number of walks. This group assembled at Newton, Porthcawl. (For full details, see page 5). PHOTOGRAPH by FRANK SHIPTON.

ABOVE:
The walkers assemble at Newton Beach to mark the creation of the Wales Coastal Path.

TORIES ARE (ALMOST) WIPED OUT IN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

LABOUR TAKES VICE-LIKE GRIP IN BRIDGEND

GEM REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

LABOUR has a vice-like grip on power in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) after an election evening that recalled those distant days when the party was invincible in south Wales.

Labour now has 39 of the 54 seats that make up the council, on a night that was grim for the Lib-Dems - and disastrous for the Conservatives.

The turnout on the night was slightly above the UK national average, but at 34.99 per cent it was still disappointing.

The Lib-Dems started the night with six councillors, and ended with just three. Porthcawl Lib-Dems Gerald Davies and Norah Clarke retained their seats, while their leader, Cheryl Green, hung on in Laleston.

The Conservatives started the night with six councillors, and ended with one - Ken Watts in Newton, Porthcawl.

It was a bad night to be a

Tory leader. Pat Hacking lost her seat in Brackla, and it was even worse in the neighbouring Vale of Glamorgan, where the council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, was also unseated.

In a night of non-stop success for Labour, there was just one glitch, when their cabinet member for children, Alana Davies, lost out in Porthcawl East Central to Brian Jones, of the new 'Porthcawl First' grouping.

This new party had another success when former Lib-Dem, Sean Aspey, took Porthcawl West Central, this time unseating the long-serving Conservative, Rosemary Deere.

It means that Labour have no seats out of five in Porthcawl, while they have 39 out of 49 in the rest of the borough.

(For more on this, see 'Porthcawl UDI' on page 3).

The balance of power has changed on BCBC. Labour, with their total of 39, gained 12 from their previous total of 27.

At first sight it was not too grim for the various independents. There were 14 at the start of the evening, and 10 at the end.

However, the Annibynwyr grouping lost several members and, at this stage, it is unclear if the new independents will join the group.

Certainly, it is hard to see how the two Porthcawl First independents could join a group where they will be outnumbered by non-Porthcawl members.

In Caerau, independents Steve Smith and Ken Hunt were both defeated, with their seats going to Labour.

The Conservatives and Lib-Dems both blamed their showing on voters wanting to register a protest against the Westminster Coalition Government.

Plaid Cymru, who had one councillor, ended the night still with one.

(For the full details of the council elections, turn to page 4)

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Young Porthcawl actor joins national theatre

THERE is a ritual that most parents go through when they bring up children, and it involves being patient, as their offspring announce what they want to be when they grow up.

When this reporter was growing up, for boys it would be an astronaut one week, an engine driver the next, or David Attenborough (that one lasted a long time!).

It has probably changed now – a computer game designer, or perhaps a Premier League footballer. I would guess David Attenborough is still popular, though.

However, coping with changing ambitions has never been a problem for Joe Wiltshire-Smith's parents, because he has only ever wanted to get on stage and sing, dance or act.

What is more, he has always been pretty good at it, and recently became the only young actor from Wales to make it into the National Youth Theatre's summer project – a selection process that whittled 4,600 applications down to just 50.

Just to emphasise his talent, he has been moved up into the 19-24 age group, rather than the 14-18 age group he auditioned for.

Joe, a year-12 pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, will spend six weeks of his holidays with the



Joe Wiltshire-Smith.

NYT in Manchester, and the fact that he was accepted will come as no surprise to anyone who has watched his progress through the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) and in Porthcawl Comprehensive School productions.

Over the last five years, he has played leading roles in *Guys and Dolls*, *Blood Brothers*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and, most recently, the title role in *Billy – the Musical*.

You can add to that several cameo roles in BYT shows where he had an uncanny knack of stealing scenes where he only had a peripheral role!

However, his mother Debbie has a good explanation for his non-stop progress, because Joe never once deviated from his desire to be on the stage.

It was never a fad or a whim.

She told The GEM: "It started when he was three and he hasn't changed his mind since."

"I remember that at

that age he was obsessed with Pinocchio, and he would be acting out being a puppet and singing the songs from the film.

"Even then, he would spend hours in character, and he did it so much that his grandfather attached strings to his clothes so he could learn how to move like a puppet!"

She said that he had always been keen to learn, and had been going to opera singer Patricia O'Neill in Porthcawl for some years now to increase his vocal range.

Debbie said: "Joe is lucky to have had such good teachers. Roger Burnell, the director of the BYT, has been watching his progress and giving advice since he was eight."

It is clear that Joe has really applied himself to learning his craft and, although he has already shown on stage that he

has a great voice, and a real gift for comedy, he is working at all the aspects.

He is, for instance, studying the books written by Lee Strasberg and Stanislavsky – teachers whose acting methods produced big names such as Brando, Newman and Pacino.

Joe certainly isn't looking to take any short cuts and is not interested in shows like the *X-Factor*.

He said: "I don't want to knock them, but I want to learn as much as I can, and go on to a good drama college."

The six-week NYT summer school is not cheap, and Joe is planning to organise a fundraising evening to help pay for it.

Given his versatility, it should be a great evening, and The GEM will certainly be passing on the details when it is finalised.

PHILIP IRWIN

PRAISE FOR LOCAL PRU PUPILS' PAINT PROJECT



ABOVE (left to right):

Matthew Nicholas, pupils Emily Coupland and Finlay Sharpe and PCSO Chris Bowen.

STUDENTS from Bridgend Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) have been giving a local walkway a colourful facelift as part of a scheme to raise awareness of the effects of anti-social behaviour in the community.

The painting project is part of 'PUPIL' (Pupils Understanding Problems in their Locality), an EU-funded

scheme which has been running at the Aberkenfig-based unit for a number of years.

Weekly sessions are delivered in the PRU by Matthew Nicholas of PUPIL, with the support of local PCSO Chris Bowen, of the Aberkenfig Neighbourhood Policing Team.

As part of the sessions, students have identified a number of projects both in and outside of the school that they feel would have a

positive impact on the local environment.

They have already built a gazebo in the school grounds and installed trellising and climbers to improve the look of the area.

Now, a local tunnel which was heavily vandalised by graffiti has been identified by the pupils as a project they could do something to improve by painting it.

The tunnel is used by local infant children to walk to school and the local community to

access a park.

Matthew said: "I have been working closely with PRU pupils since January this year, and to their credit they have engaged in a number of projects, and have developed new skills and links with the community."

"I'm very impressed to see the enthusiasm they have displayed for the tunnel painting and other projects."

Quiz League posers

THIS week's posers are as follows:

1) Which former US President was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002?

2) Oneiromancy is fortune telling by what means?

3) Which fast bowler shared 421 wickets with Courtney Walsh in the 49 Test matches they played together?

4) In the Beatles' single 'Lady Madonna', what day and part of the day 'Arrives without a suitcase'?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS
1 — Jimmy Carter
2 — Interpreting dreams
3 — Cindy Lauper
4 — Friday night

Bridgend PACT

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT public meeting at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, Thursday, May 10 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill, on May 10 at 6.30pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on May 14 at 6.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, on May 22 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD and PENDRE PACT at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on May 28 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HEN-

DRE and PENPRYSG (PENCOED) PACT at Welfare Hall, Heol y Groes on May 30 at 6pm.

BRACKLA PACT at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on May 31 at 6.30pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGWEYD and BRYNHIFYRD PACT, Bryntirion Juniors, Heol y Frenhines on June 11 at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on June 20 at 6.30pm.

COITY PACT at Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer on July 5 at 7pm.

Can you give Sandy a home?

DOG OF THE WEEK

THE GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for residents at the Dogs Trust's Bridgend rehoming centre.

THIS WEEK: SANDY is a three-year-old crossbreed. She is very sweet, affectionate and loves a good fuss, a spokeswoman reports.

She is very clever, and loves her treats – which makes her lots of fun for training! She would like to be the only dog in her new home, but she can mix with dogs when out and about.

Sandy can live with older children, and will enjoy lots of walks and trips out with the family. She features in her very own film on: www.youtube.com/dogstrust, click on the Dogs Trust Bridgend playlist.

If you would like to offer Sandy a home, call in at the Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Bridgend, CF31 4NG. Open 12pm-4pm every day, except Monday, and on Wednesdays open until 8pm.

Telephone: 01656 725219.



GEM READERS' LETTERS

Age Cymru, three years on...

AGE CYMRU, the older people's charity for Wales is three years old and it seems like a long time ago since we formed Age Cymru in 2009, by combining Age Concern Cymru and Help the Aged in Wales.

Over the last three years, Age Cymru has achieved a lot – far too much to mention here.

I'd like to thank your readers for the support we have received from them over the last three years.

I'd also like to take

this opportunity to thank all the organisations who have supported Age Cymru since 2009, and who still work for us.

Looking to the future, Age Cymru will continue to campaign and work with our partners across Wales to make a difference to the lives of older people.

For further information about Age Cymru, our local partners, getting involved with our work and making a donation, please visit www.agecymru.co.uk

Robert Taylor OBE, chief executive, Age Cymru,

'Come down from your ivory towers!'

I HAVE to say that it is very rare for me to praise a politician, but you must give Leanne Wood AM a massive pat on the back – well done to her for refusing to accept a pay rise of more than £23,000 for becoming leader of her party.

It puts to shame the rest of the dire lot in the assembly. How on earth is First Minister Carwyn Jones worth over £130,000?

An AM's basic is £53,852, but they can claim extra for doing other duties.

At a time when the people of not only Wales, but of the rest of the UK, are struggling to make ends meet and rely on food banks, mainly due to Victorian decisions made by politicians, it would seem that as soon as they get behind closed doors of their ivory towers, no-one else exists.

It really is high time politicians of all classes were brought down to earth.

For far too long they have had the easy life; it's time for it all to end.

But well done Leanne, you put the rest of the bunch to shame. **D J Radford,**

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
10 Thur	10.16	9.5	22.38	9.4
11 Fri	11.04	9.0	23.28	8.8
12 Sat	11.58	8.4		
13 Sun	00.27	8.5	12.57	7.9
14 Mon	01.35	8.0	14.09	7.8
15 Tues	02.45	8.0	15.25	7.9
16 Wed	03.51	8.1	16.23	8.1
17 Thur	04.47	8.4	17.13	8.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'FACEBOOK COUNCILLORS' CAPTURE TWO SEATS 'Porthcawl should declare UDI' – says a council veteran

by PHILIP IRWIN

POLITICIANS from Porthcawl are talking about declaring UDI – after a set of local election results that they feel leaves the town out in the cold.

A night when Labour was overwhelmingly successful, taking 39 out of 49 seats elsewhere, has left a series of disgruntled local politicians, feeling that the town is increasingly isolated in the borough.

Labour's only Porthcawl councillor, the cabinet member for children and young people, Alana Davies, lost her seat to Brian Jones, a candidate for the new local grouping Porthcawl First.

It is fair to say that Porthcawl First is a single issue party, which argues that Porthcawl gets little financial support from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The party's message since it was formed around 18 months ago has been that BCBC spends millions in Bridgend and north of the M4 – and nothing in Porthcawl.

Arguments over the regeneration of Porthcawl have further fuelled this discontent, and it is hard to avoid the conclusion that Coun Davies lost as a result of being forced to defend BCBC policy in the face of widespread local opposition.

It was veteran Conservative councillor, David Newton-Williams, who told The GEM: "Porthcawl is now so isolated that we should try and find some way of declaring UDI."

Porthcawl now has five councillors: two Porthcawl Firsts (Sean Aspey and Brian Jones); two Lib-Dems (Gerald Davies and Norah



ABOVE: Meet the 'Facebook candidates'. Sean Aspey (left) and Brian Jones, the two Porthcawl First candidates who were elected, told The GEM that their followers on the social network turned out to vote for them.

Clarke) and one Conservative (Ken Watts).

Speaking on the night they were elected, Sean Aspey and Brian Jones told The GEM that they had won their seats without the benefit of a party machine.

Brian Jones said: "We had just six people out distributing leaflets and knocking on doors."

Sean Aspey said that they had kept their profile high through the Facebook page of Porthcawl First, which has more than 2,000 members.

He said: "We feel that we had support from a good number of young people who engaged with the issues through the Facebook page."

Brian Jones added: "We had more young people supporting us, and had voters from 18 to 85!"

The two seats where Porthcawl First were successful tell a story. In Porthcawl West Central four years ago, Rosemary Deere was returned with 584 votes, Paul Winstanley of Labour was second with 293, while Sean Aspey, at the time a Lib-Dem, came third and last with 238.

This time, Mr Aspey, with the new improved Porthcawl First ingredient, won easily with 659. Jessica Davies of Labour was second with 224, while Rosemary Deere's vote slumped to 220.

For the Conservatives, it was ironic that, with Labour in control of BCBC, it was the Tory vote that collapsed. In Porthcawl East Central four years ago, Alana Davies won a close fight, totalling 412 votes. Both the Lib-Dems (Mike Clarke) and the Conservatives (Bobby Lewis) polled well, with Mike Clarke in second with 357, and Bobby Lewis third with 265.

Surprisingly, neither the Lib-Dems nor the Conservatives fielded a candidate this year, and Brian Jones of Porthcawl First swept to victory, polling 558 votes. Alana Davies came a distant second with 337.

There was a third candidate, Plaid Cymru's Alan Roberts, whose 89 votes made no difference to the final outcome.

Support group's Parkinson's awareness walk

PARKINSON'S awareness week was in April and some of the Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group joined the Bridgend branch to walk on the promenade.

Each person walked as far as they could and the combined distance of the marathon, 26 miles, was completed.

Later in the week, a quiz and raffle was held in The Seagull Pub in aid of Parkinson's aware-

ness week. At the monthly meeting in April, Andrew Penny, the branch and volunteer support officer for Wales came to talk to us.

He told us about himself and the work he does on behalf of Parkinson's to help groups like ours.

The next meeting is at 10.30am on May 25 in the Unitarian Church schoolroom in Nottage.

All newcomers are welcome. For further information contact 01656 783071.

NC

GROUPS GET TOGETHER FOR BIG MAESTEG LITTER-PICK



Volunteers clean up Maesteg.
Photograph by Daf Keyse Photography.

Police urge surfers to improve their security

WITH the summer almost upon us, police in Porthcawl are reminding surfers to think security before setting off to ride the waves.

Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team have launched Surf Watch, a summer initiative that will see officers providing crime prevention advice and conducting high visibility patrols at popular surfing beaches such as Rest Bay in order to deter car thieves.

This year, the policing team are working in partnership with surf companies Magic Seaweed and Northcore, who have provided waterproof key pouches for officers to give to surfers in order to keep their vehicles safe.

The specialist air tight pouches can be used to keep car keys secure while in the water, so car keys no longer have to be left hidden near the vehicle for car thieves to find.

The scheme was first introduced at Rest Bay two years ago by PC Chris Bluck and PCSO Leighton Rees.

PC Bluck said: "In the past two years Surfer Watch has reduced the number of thefts from



PC Chris Bluck, PCSO Leighton Rees and PS Mike Davies with the key pouches at Rest Bay.

vehicles in Rest Bay dramatically.

"You can easily reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime by taking some basic security precautions. It seems obvious, but don't leave your car keys unprotected or unattended!"

"Many people hide their keys close to their vehicles, which leaves their belongings vulnerable to theft."

"Keep your key on your person in a waterproof key pouch when

SEVERAL environmental groups in Maesteg came together on Saturday for a litter pick around the town.

Luckily, the weather was good, so members of The Rivercare Group, Maesteg Community Garden Projects, Friends of the Welfare Park, The Lighthouse Project, Every Link Counts, the Army Cadets and others, donned their gloves and took part in a big tidy-up.

They had the use of a hand-pull cart, high visibility jackets,

gloves and litter-pickers, which were donated by Keep Wales Tidy.

Alan Pearson, chair of MCGP, said: "It was great to see so many people of all ages giving up their time to help."

"We are keen to involve the children so they will take pride in their town in the future."

More events are planned, and all the groups would welcome new volunteers.

To get involved, contact any of the groups through Maesteg Town Council on 01656 732631.

Rotary walk will help many local charities

THE Rotary Clubs of Maesteg and Porthcawl invite local people to join their charity fun walk on Sunday, May 20, to support people in need.

The walk will be started by Paralympian gold medalist Simon Richardson MBE and everyone is welcome to take part.

The 5km course is along the picturesque Porthcawl seaford, starting on the lower western promenade near the RNLI Station to the Rest Bay Lifeguard Station and back.

The route is walker and wheelchair-friendly and everybody is welcome to take part.

The Rotary Clubs have got together to try and assist the following Bridgend charities:

Action for Children, Carer's Centre, Bridgend Food Bank, Bridgend Women's Aid, Garmwen Trust, Girlguiding Central Glamorgan, Home Start, KPC Youth, Ogwr Talking Newspaper, Stroke Club of Porthcawl, BCB Veterans Association, Sandville Self Help Centre, The Wallich, Trinity Care and Support, Ty Cornel Safe House, Ty Ellis Counselling Services, Ty Hafan and Y Bont.

You can turn up on the day between 11am and 2pm and pay £5 at the Rotary marquee near the start point (juniors up to year-11 £1) or pre-register for £2 (juniors £1).

Registration forms and further information is available by telephoning Roger Grannum (01656 645148) or Carolyn Chilcott (01656 788735).

Solve your family history mystery!

WITH researching family history becoming an increasingly popular pastime, Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) libraries have made tracing ancestors more accessible.

The Ancestry Library Edition service, free to all members, normally would cost up to £155.40 a year for a home subscription.

It provides the most comprehensive collection of genealogical information online, with more than five billion names in more than 4,000 collections. Its continuously-expanding, diverse and unique content allows users to trace their family history and access historic records that have not previously been available online.

The wealth of information available includes: censuses for England, Scotland,

Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands between 1841 and 1911; England and Wales Civil Registration Index for births, deaths and marriages between 1837 and 1983; UK and Ireland parish and probate records between the 1500s and 1837; and a variety of American and other foreign materials including directories, federal censuses, convict indexes and Railways Gazette data.

In addition to this, the libraries provide a variety of materials to help members research their family history including books, newspapers and periodicals, photographs, maps and plans, records and census returns, electoral registers and free internet access to visit a number of websites designed to help us discover our roots.

For more information visit the website www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries, or email: blis@bridgend.gov.uk.

Thieves target patio paving

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information after thieves stole patio paving from the front and rear gardens of a house in Maes-y-Felin, Wildmill.

The front garden paving, described as a sun circle patio, was removed from the property sometime between 3pm and 6pm on Friday, April 17. Thieves also entered the back garden of the house via an insecure rear gate and took paving from a second patio.

Other parts of the back garden patio were then stolen sometime between 8.30pm on Tuesday, May 1, and 3am on Wednesday, May 2.

Anyone who may have noticed any suspicious activity in the area is asked to contact Bridgend Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Bridgend College plays host to IT competition



ABOVE (left to right): Mark Jones, college principal, David Wright, Logica, Christopher Bayliss, Shawn Allen, Lewis Campbell, Andrew Bayliss, Steve Richards, Logica and Aaron Logan, Logica.

BRIDGEND College hosted the prestigious Skills Competition Wales final, and WorldSkills regional heat on April 27, welcoming budding IT professionals to compete in one of four categories – Cisco Network Technician, Microsoft Applications Specialist, Microsoft IT Technician and Web Design.

The event is part of a network of contests put on by the Welsh Government with the support of the European Social Fund, to promote the importance of developing a workforce with strong vocational and trade skills.

Bridgend College is delighted to announce that their students won the following awards:

UK Regional Heat: Joseph Davies – First (gold) Microsoft Applications Specialist.

Pupils praised

MANY congratulations to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Cerys Barrett – class 1, Matthew Briggs – class 2, Ethan Avery – class 3, Jake Thomas – class 4, Luke Tozer – class 5, Eryn Mae Franklyn – class 6 and Cameron Jenkins – class 7. The headteacher's award went to Phillip Burnell.

Congratulations also go to Lauren Cooper, Theo Aubin, Muhammed Afzal, Brandon Gisham, William Underhill, Connor Farnham, Holly Mae Evans, Paige Cochrane, Emmi Joy, Olivia Magness and Cerys Phillips for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Basketball trials: Four pupils from the school have been taking part in the district basketball trials over the last two weeks.

Unfortunately, after the first trial, Bradley Jenkins was unable to go forward to the final trial.

However, Jade Walker, Jack Underhill and Senem Akpinar took part, but there was further disappointment when Jade failed to go through.

Congratulations to Jade and Senem who will train with the district and represent the school for

Lewis Campbell – Second (silver) Web Design.

Andrew Bayliss – Second (silver) Microsoft IT Technician.

Christopher Bayliss – Third (bronze) Microsoft IT Technician.

Welsh Final: Lewis Campbell – Second (silver) Web Design.

Andrew Bayliss – Second (silver) Microsoft IT Technician.

Christopher Bayliss – Third (bronze) Microsoft IT Technician.

Shawn Allen – Third (bronze) Cisco Network Technician.

The winners at these events will have the opportunity to compete in the UK-wide final in Birmingham, with the chance of representing the UK at a WorldSkills International event in 2013.

In addition, the four Gold Award winners received a two week work placement with Logica, the leading global business and technology service company with a base in Bridgend.

Steve Richards, production and

transformation director outsourcing services at Logica said: "The gold award winners have proven they have an excellence

"in understanding of technology. We're delighted to have them joining Logica on a work placement so they can see how they will be able to translate that knowledge into the work environment."

Going to Logica will be Microsoft Applications Specialist at Bridgend College, Joseph Davies.

Bridgend College also hosted a unique Junior Skills Competition for four local Primary Schools (Litchard, Bettws, Dolau and Croesty).

Pupils from these schools took part in 'The BIG Challenge' competing in teams to complete a series of challenges to promote a food festival: designing a poster; designing a badge; producing a sculpture and a presentation about the benefits of purchasing local produce.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Bridgend.

Church donation: On behalf of the school, Mr Goldsworthy thanked Bethel Community Church for their donation of £50. He said it was a pleasure to hear that the children go to their youth group on Friday evenings and to the church on a Sunday.

They are a credit to their families and to the school. They will put the money towards their Jubilee celebrations on Friday, June 1.

Guided reading: Following a previous report regarding a 'guided reading' approach, the school has now ordered the materials needed to help them to use this in all classes, at a cost close to £3,000.

On May 4, they ran the sponsored 'Olympic' event when every class had a challenge to complete on the day.

What a sight it was to see so much action in the yard when year-4 and 5 completed their tasks in the morning.

Year-3 then completed the penalty shootout before year-5 finished off the afternoon with their marathon. Not only has it proved to be a tremendous success due to the physical activities from every pupil, but they have collected nearly £1,000.

Quiz: On Tuesday,

May 1, the school road safety quiz team took part in the first round of the south Wales road safety quiz at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

In the short time they had to prepare for the quiz, Charlotte Roberts, Ben Evans, Liam Evans and Lowri Thomas worked extremely hard under the guidance of Mrs Jones to come third against 20 other teams and proceed to the next round.

Wellbeing

Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, 16 May include: arts and crafts from 2pm-4pm and the reading group from 3pm-4pm; social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

Talbot Community Centre

IF you have just moved to the area and would like to meet new friends, the ideal place to do this is at the luncheon club in Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill.

For only £3.50, a freshly cooked two-

course meal, followed by tea or coffee is served every Wednesday and Friday for anyone over the age of 30 (any age for carers accompanying anyone disabled). To add to your enjoyment, there is a bingo session following lunch on Fridays.

This Saturday (May 12), the Talbot will be open from 5pm to 7.30pm when the festival group, attendants and flower girls for the Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival Week will be chosen.

To start the proceedings there will be a children's disco at 5pm (free entry). For information regarding activities and events at the Talbot, contact Cheryl on 01656 749754.

Kenfig Society

THE guest speaker at the next meeting of the Kenfig Society will be Brian Davies, talking about Cardiff's lost castle, in the Pyle Life Centre, on May 15 starting at 7.30pm.

For more information about the Kenfig Society, telephone Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.

Bird talk

ON Wednesday, May 16, the Welsh Birds of Prey Centre will be at Mynydd Cynffig Infants School displaying the birds and talking to the children. The show will cost £1 per child.

May Flic and Flac, the Welsh puppet show, will be entertaining the children at the school on Thursday, May 17.

There is no charge for this show as it is being paid for out of school funds.

LABOUR TAKES A GRIP ON BRIDGEND COUNTY

Listed below are the complete local election results for Bridgend County Borough Council. In the spirit of that old newspaper competition staple 'Spot the Ball' – is it time to play 'Spot the Conservative'? (Only joking!)

THE symbol (E) denotes that the candidate was elected.

Aberkenfig (one seat)
Gary Haines (Labour) 285
Nicola Claire Thomas (Plaid Cymru) 145
Mel Winter (Independent) 323 (E)

Bettws

(One seat)
Gareth Terance Harris (green) 85
Christopher John Michaelides (Labour) 273 (E)

Brackla

(four seats)
Charlotte Berrow (Lib Dem) 416
Pat Hacking (Conservative) 628
Terry Hacking (Conservative) 589
Craig Llewellyn Jones (Labour) 1,003 (E)
Michael Quick (Independent) 469
David Sage (Labour) 1,247 (E)
John Charles Spanswick (Labour) 1,188 (E)
Daniel Wyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru) 287
Nicholas Huw Thomas (Plaid Cymru) 258
Hailey Janet Townsend (Labour) 984 (E)

Bryncethin

(one seat)
Bernie McLeer (Lib Dem) 64
Gary Thomas (Labour) 209 (E)

Bryncoc

(one seat)
Ian Jacka (Lib Dem) 109
Pat Penpraze (Labour) 313 (E)

Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyrmaur

(two seats)
Andrew Martyn Breeding (Labour) 558
Pamela Annette Davies (Labour) 700 (E)
Cheryl Anne Green (Lib Dem) 624 (E)
Kathy Lewis (Green Party) 271
Wayne Morgan (Lib Dem) 529
Ian Matthew Spiller (Conservative) 531

Caerau

(three seats)
Wyn Davies (Labour) 764 (E)
Ken Hunt (Independent) 751
Phil John (Labour) 1,057 (E)
Steve Smith (Independent) 756
Phil White (Labour) 1,028 (E)

Cefn Glas

(one seat)
Tony Berrow (Lib Dem) 130
Barbara Eileen Parish (Conservative) 59
Cleone Westwood (Labour) 302 (E)

Coity

(one seat)
Olivia Byrne (Labour) 29
Andy Chyba (Green Party) 19
Briony Davies (Lib Dem) 38
Ella Dodd (Independent) 238 (E)

Cornelly

(two seats)
Megan Winifred Butcher (Independent) 996 (E)
Richard Morgan Granville (Labour) 696
Diane Barbara Spanswick (Labour) 506
Jeff Tildesley (Independent) 1,076 (E)

Coychurch

(one seat)
Kay Louise Rowlands (Conservative) 77
John Udraufski (Labour) 73
Elaine Venables (Independent) 374 (E)

Felindre

(one seat)
Mike Clarke (Lib Dem) 254
Mike Gregory (Labour) 467 (E)

Hendre

(two seats)
Laurie Brophy (Green Party) 167
John Richard McCarthy (Labour) 549 (E)
Brian Gwyn Watkins (Independent) 290
Kim Watkins (Independent) 307
Richard Williams (Labour) 594 (E)

Litchard

(one seat)
Cherie Jones (Labour) 457 (E)
Alan Wathan (Conservative) 307

Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd

(one seat)
Malcolm David Francis Labour) 397 (E)
Eric Hughes (Lib Dem) 156
Adam John Lloyd (National Front) 46

Llangynydd

(one seat)
Malcolm James (Plaid Cymru) 522 (E)
Idris Williams (Labour) 442

Maesteg East

(two seats)
Kyle Duggan (Plaid Cymru) 197
Keith Edwards (Labour) 1,070 (E)
Gareth Huw Ifan (Plaid Cymru) 234
Delyth Margaret Miller (Green Party) 80
Mal Reeves (Labour) 972 (E)

Maesteg West

(two seats)
Dai Berry (Plaid Cymru) 344
Wayne Howells (Plaid Cymru) 293
Ian Jones (Lib Dem) 223
Ceri Reeves (Labour) 942 (E)
Ross Thomas (Labour) 1,096 (E)

Morfa

(two seats)
Trish Evans (Green Party) 91
Neelo Farr (Labour) 435
Peter Foley (Independent) 441 (E)
Roger Marsh (Independent) 334
Haydn Edwin Morgan (Labour) 551 (E)
Sara Jen Thomas (Plaid Cymru) 199
Tim Thomas (Plaid Cymru) 201

Nantymoel

(one seat)
David Nigel William Jones (Labour) 352
David George Owen (Independent) 417 (E)

Newcastle

(two seats)
Mervyn Rowland Lewis (Conservative) 470
Christina Rees (Labour) 782 (E)
David Alan Unwin (Conservative) 486
David Benjamin Francis White (Labour) 791 (E)

Newton

(one seat)
Marian Sian Davies (Plaid Cymru) 183
Ken Watts (Conservative) 647 (E)
Richard John Weaver (Labour) 367

Nottage

(one seat)
Norah Clarke (Lib Dem) 512 (E)
Chris Smart (Conservative) 271
Paul Winstanley (Labour) 320

Ogmore Vale

(one seat)
Della Mary Hughes (Independent) 505 (E)
Ralph Shepherd (Labour) 414

Oldcastle

(two seats)
David Richard Bolton (Plaid Cymru) 138
Bob Burns (Independent) 276
Diane Burns (Independent) 248
Tom Green (Lib Dem) 64
Abi Hicks (Lib Dem) 55
Edith Mary Hughes (Labour) 734 (E)
Clare Joyce Lewis (Conservative) 261
Gareth Phillips (Labour) 507 (E)
Matthew Colin Voisey (Conservative) 287

Pendre

(one seat)
Anita Dawn Davies (Lib Dem) 188
Nigel Patrick Howe (Plaid Cymru) 52
Richard Edward Young (Labour) 264 (E)

Penprysg

(one seat)
Carol Davies (Independent) 277
Alexander David Owen (Labour) 460 (E)

Pen-y-fai

(one seat)
Altaf Hussain (Conservative) 225
David Lewis (Labour) 269 (E)
Meryl Wilkins (Independent) 223

Porthcawl East Central

(one seat)
Alana Davies (Labour) 337
Brian Jones (Independent) 558 (E)
Alan Roberts (Plaid Cymru) 89

Porthcawl West Central

(one seat)
Sean Aspey (Independent) 659 (E)
Jessica Davies (Labour) 224
Rosemary Deere (Conservative) 220

Pyle

(three seats)
Luke Ellis 994 (E)
Melissa Jayne Humphreys (Conservative) 169
Clive James (Labour) 1,065 (E)
Pauline James (Labour) 910 (E)
Allan Jones (Independent) 542
Carol Ann Turner (Conservative) 234
David Arthur Williams (Lib Dem) 321

Rest Bay

(one seat)
Gerald Davies (Lib Dem) 447 (E)
Caroline Elizabeth Vaughan (Conservative) 363

Sarn

(one seat)
Dave Harrison 96
Mel Nott (Labour) 496 (E)

Ynysawdre

(one seat)
Danny Clark (Plaid Cymru) 302
John Anthony Evans (Green Party) 57
Lyn Morgan (Labour) 516 (E)

NEWS FROM THE MAYOR OF PORTHCAWL...

April was a very busy month for engagements!

HELLO EVERYONE! I have been extremely fortunate this month to have been invited with my consort and husband, Mr Bill Stubbs, as guests to many events and functions in Porthcawl; it has been a very busy and extremely enjoyable April.

We attended a match and reception held by the Porthcawl Rugby Club which exhibited the superb rugby skills of our Porthcawl under 16s team who were playing the team from Saint Sebastian, Basse-Goulain, Porthcawl's twin town in France.

I presented a trophy to Porthcawl captain, Ollie Banner, who won the game, as well as a framed team photograph, provided by Mr Keith Morgan, our wonderful Porthcawl photographer, to the captain of the Rugby Club Saint Sebastian Basse-Goulain.

I also presented a commemorative slate plaque to the French team manager, Thierry Guernonprez. It was a huge success, with much of the planning of the tour down to Mr Rob Chick and the Porthcawl Town Twinning Association.

The Porthcawl International Jazz Festival, organised by Mr Wayne Warlow and his committee, was another hugely successful event held in Porthcawl. My husband and I were invited to the John Miller Orchestra concert held in the Grand Pavilion that weekend. A large audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We were invited back stage to meet the cast and Mr John Miller himself, whose uncle was the very famous Glen Miller, it was a huge honour.

We paid two extremely interesting visits to Sandville Self Help Centre, Ton Kenfig – one to celebrate their 20th anniversary, and the other to be shown around the whole of

Sandville Court, in order to learn about and understand the excellent services the staff provide to their residential patients, who receive therapy treatment, such as reflexology, Reiki, pool therapy and acupuncture, as well as for other treatments, social events and coffee mornings.

It is a fantastic organisation, visited by children and people of all ages and, on our visits, we saw a six-year-old as well as an 86-year-old. It is run by full-time staff and a great number of voluntary helpers. This foundation is a registered charity and deserves any help it can get. It certainly deserves all our praise.

I attended as Mayor, as well as a school governor, the assembly at Nottage Primary School in order to meet up, not only with staff and pupils, but also the visiting Mayor from the Palma region in Spain and other Spanish guests who were looking at wellbeing in Porthcawl schools.

As a past deputy head-teacher myself, I was extremely pleased to see how the new approach to behaviour such as bullying and truanting, and other forms of bad behaviour, are being tackled in a very different and very positive way.

The encouragement and awards pupils are provided with, when they behave well, is a very rewarding system. It has proved extremely successful and I wish them all the very best for the school's future developments of well-being.

My husband and I were invited by Mr Lindsay Morgan and his Diamond Jubilee committee to distribute some medals to pupils at Porthcawl Primary School, Newton Primary School, Nottage Primary School and West Park Primary School.

The medals were beautiful and were given to the pupils of Porthcawl to commemorate the Queen's 60th year of her reign. The pupils were obviously delighted with what

they received and I'm sure they will keep them as commemorative medals for many years to come.

The committee has worked so very hard to organise the Diamond Jubilee events, and they deserve our many thanks for all they have achieved. I am really looking forward to attending these events in June.

We have attended two musicals in the Grand Pavilion this month *Billy – The Musical*, performed by the Bridgend Youth Theatre, and the *Sound of Music*, performed by the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

They were hugely successful and greatly appreciated by the huge audiences that attended both performances. The cast and crew in both productions were absolutely fantastic.

Those who performed should be given the recognition they deserve. My husband and I met up with the cast of both productions and we showed our huge admiration for their skills and talents.

A very different visit we made was to the Parc Prison in Coity. We were invited by Mrs Ruth Birch, chairman of the Royal British Legion. What we experienced as we visited the varying blocks around the prison was not what we were expecting.

The main aims of the prison staff are to bring the prisoners and their families close together, to reduce re-offending, intergenerational offending and community inclusion.

They have included courses where prisoners learn new skills and trades to encourage them to go back to work when they leave prison. They work closely with Barnado's and Ty Hafan.

As Barnado's is one of my Mayoral charities I was extremely pleased to see how well they are working with the prison management to improve the situation for children whose father's are prisoners.

They have provided spaces where children can meet up with close fathers who are in prison. We spoke to a number of prisoners who showed clearly how much they had learned and improved since being in Par Prison. As far as my husband and I were concerned, the whole afternoon we spent there was eye opening and uplifting. The prison staff are achieving a great deal and we wish them our very best for the future.

My husband and I also visited the Stroke Awareness Day held at Trinity Church. It was organised by the Porthcawl Rotary Club and many people attended to have the nurses and doctors present to measure and record blood pressure.

If the person's blood pressure is raised, he/she is encouraged to visit his/her own doctor for a follow up test, and any recommended treatment. This event is extremely useful to residents and visitors and would prevent strokes. I think the Rotary Club of Porthcawl deserves our thanks for providing this very important service to residents and visitors on a yearly basis.

It is a very valuable service to all the community.

We also presented Mrs Phyllis Matthews, of Nicholls Avenue, with flowers to celebrate her 100th birthday. I understand that until six months ago, she looked after herself, and when we met her, it did not surprise us, she was a remarkable lady whose faculties were absolutely fantastic!

What an inspiration she is to us all. Many congratulations, Phyllis!

Well, I still have quite a number of events to attend in my last few weeks as Mayor of Porthcawl and I shall write to you next month to tell you all about them. Lovely to report to you again. Take care!

COUN BARBARA STUBBS,
(Mayor of Porthcawl)

WINNING WORK PLACEMENT PARTNERSHIP



Bridgend College and St David's Hotel and Spa are hoping the new partnership benefits the students.

BRIDGEND College recently welcomed Kathryn Cochran, head of human resources, Angharad Williams, special events co-ordinator and Dominic Powell, senior sous chef, from St David's Hotel and Spa to the college to explore greater work placement opportunities for our students at the hotel.

The team from St David's Hotel and Spa took a tour of the college's hair and beauty salons, kitchens, restaurant and tourism department to see the students at work, before enjoying a working lunch with key college personnel in Seasons, the college's restaurant, where the students prepare and serve the meals.

A number of students have already undertaken work experience at the five-star hotel, including leisure and tourism students working with the operations/events manager, professional cookery students working in the kitchen and hair-dressing students on work placement in the

salon.

By developing this partnership, the college is hoping to offer further placements to students front of house, in the restaurant, with house-keeping, in the spa and within the estates team, in particular electrical installation.

In addition, the catering department at the hotel have offered to provide on site demonstrations to catering students.

To date, this partnership has resulted in Rhys

Sinfield, a professional catering student at Bridgend College, being offered employment within the kitchens at the hotel, which he intends on taking up on completion of his course.

The visit went very well, with Kathryn Cochran, head of human resources saying: "Thank you so much for the tour and lunch."

"It was very informative and we look forward to working closely with the college in the future."

Ramblers descend on Porthcawl



RAMBLERS from around south Wales descended on Porthcawl last weekend – to mark the opening of the Wales Coastal Path.

Following the well-attended opening day walk from Locks Common, Porthcawl, to Kenfig, where more than 85 ramblers took part, they continued the celebrations with a walk from Newton Beach to Merthyr Mawr.

The return route was via Candelston through the sand dunes back to Newton.

A Welsh Rambling Association organiser said: "The weekends events were really enjoyable and it is great for everyone to enjoy the beauties of our coastline"

FS

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **FRANK SHIPTON**
(01656 710454, 07790 882925,
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frankshipton@mac.com)



Maesteg's history – and a few ghostly tales

MAESTEG was originally a rural village, dating back around 2,000 years, where an Iron Age castle among the hills was identified, as well as evidence of Bronze Age settlements.

This small village began to expand throughout the Industrial Revolution during the early 19th Century.

In the 1820s, the Iron Works opened, giving trade to local people from the village and beyond. Soon afterwards, coal seams also gave further employment in the community.

The Grade II listed Maesteg Town Hall is a prominent feature in the extended town.

It was built in 1880, with C R M Talbot MP laying its first foundation stone on October 1, 1880.

He had kindly contributed £500 towards the construc-

tion of the project. With true community spirit riding high, the local miners all agreed to donate one day's wages towards its completion, the total amount exceeding £5,000.

The hall itself would have a 650 seating capacity. It was designed by Henry Harris, who was a Cardiff resident, and his plan began with the building's frontage, which he drafted in Queen Anne style.

The entrance would contain a double front of steps to reach the grandeur of the entire building, where no expense was spared.

It was proposed to host concerts, plays, operas, public meetings, and other forms of entertainment for the public to enjoy.

The hall underwent refurbishments between 1913 and 14 – and, unfortunately, the structure's outer appearance lost the majority of its origi-

nal character. It was reopened on November 25, 1914 to a rousing performance by Nantyllyllon Harmonic Society.

The ornate tower, (known as the town clock) was the centrepiece of the town, and visible from all corners of the community.

With closure looming, and the threat of the demise of such an iconic landmark, in June 1998 Maesteg Town Hall Ltd took over the running of the hall from Bridgend County Borough Council.

The saved hall would now remain a focal point for entertainment for future performances to entertain the public.

The clock's faces are visible from all angles of the region, as if watching people's activity throughout time, and towers above the town, observing all movement below it.

Legend maintains that fairies from Ireland dance around the hills above the town, living in a mysterious crooked tree. Wherever this tree stands upon the hillside, it is said to be unlucky to raise deadwood from beneath it.

With its tales of folklore breathing down upon us below, would any wise man want to break a tradition passed down through the depths of time?

The spectral, but eerie image of a giant pack of wolves has been reported to stalk the hills overlooking the town, looming in the darkness, ready to pounce on unsuspecting victims.

Why would these fearful creatures want to roam an area beyond their natural habitat, lost in the midst of time?

The ghostly figure of a man has been seen by staff, drifting around the Town

Hall. He seems to answer to the name George, but who was this gentleman during his time on the earth's plane, and why would he want to linger around a place that he would possibly no longer recognise?

Eerie happenings within the clock tower affect the mechanism in mysterious ways.

Photographs have identified strange etchings reading L/Cpl Biggins, Blaydon on Tyne, 2/101943 – 9/2/1944 on its walls. George Biggins had actually carved his name on a wall in the tower before being sent to the Normandy Landings.

Could the ghostly apparition who roams the building be George who survived the war, and passed away in 1973, reminding bystanders of his human existence in the area?

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide...
HAYLEY WILLIAMS



WKU students pushed hard

RECENTLY, students from WKU (Welsh Kickboxing Union) were being

scrutinised by examiners during a gruelling seven-hour black belt and

black tag grading.

Students were awarded coveted black belts after successfully completing a seven hour training session on the Saturday and returning for a further seven hours to complete the grading on Easter Sunday.

The path to black belt success is long and requires hard work, discipline and determination from the stu-

dent, and successful completion provides the student with a real sense of accomplishment.

Jeff Copp, seventh dan and head of WKU, was particularly pleased with the standard of this years candidates: "I can say without fear of contradiction all students deserved it, it was tough!"

WKU has earned the

reputation of an organisation that continues to train and maintain students of a high ability. Students often go on to open and instruct in new clubs that maintain the high standards promoted by Master Copp.

New students are welcome; if you would like to find out more, visit www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk.

JC

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

CORRECTION: The next local produce market will be held at the church hall, St Brides Major, on Saturday May 19, (not May 10 as previously stated).

The local library service is proving a success and is open five hours a week - Wednesday 3.15pm-4.15pm and 5pm-7pm, and Saturday 10am-12 noon. A cup of tea is also available at the Parish coffee and chat morning on Saturdays.

Also now available at the library are the green waste bags at £1 each and free poop/scoop bags.

ST BRIDES MAJOR Parish was well represented at Llandaff Cathedral when the Queen visited to start the celebrations of her Diamond Jubilee in Wales on April 26.

The Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of

Margam and the priest in charge of our Parish, and his wife Sheila attended, as did Sir Geoffrey and Lady Inkin of Castle-upon-Alun, and Tony Davies of Wildflower Cottage, Pitcot, one of St Bridget's bell ringers.

A great honour for them all!

ON Friday April 27, a prize bingo was held at the church hall in aid of funds for the Diamond Jubilee Carnival to be held on Saturday, June 8.

A very successful evening with lots of lovely prizes and the 'caller', Rosemary Roughley, was very humorous, particularly when it came to the auction at the end of the evening (she has certainly missed her vocation).

Everyone enjoyed the tea and coffee with a Welsh cake.

A big thank you to all the helpers for making it a happy evening enjoyed by all.

LIFEGUARDS HELP CLEAN UP WALES COASTAL PATH



ABOVE: Penybont Lifeguard Club members at the clean up.

AHEAD of the Wales Coastal Path opening, Keep Wales Tidy and Penybont lifeguards held a pre-launch clean up at Ogmere-by-Sea.

Over 50 volunteers braved the strong winds and cold weather to lend a hand to help remove litter from the coastal path in the area.

Over a tonne of rubbish was removed for recycling, including a five-inch knife, a local busi-

ness sign and a children's pedal car.

Neu White, club treasurer, commented: "Our club is committed to improve the environment and we always have strong support from our members on these sessions."

"The 870-mile path will be the longest continuous coastal path around a country and we are very proud to be a part of this historical event."

Ian Harvey, KWT officer,

said: "I was really impressed by the turnout, despite the bad weather. Everyone was really enthusiastic and it was great to see so many children help too."

More clean-up projects between KWT and Penybont Lifeguards are planned throughout the year.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Ian Harvey at Keep Wales Tidy on 02920 726994.

LYNN AIMS TO CROSS CENTRAL AMERICA ON CYCLING CHALLENGE

A PETERSTON super Ely resident is gearing up to tackle an international cycling challenge to raise money for research into birthing problems in the UK, and has already completed step one in a Talbot Green shop.

Lynn Finch (pictured, right), who works for Sport Wales in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, cycled the equivalent of 90-100 miles in the shop window of Cotswold Outdoors over the weekend of April 28-29.

This raised £170 towards the cost of her challenge, which will see her travel from Panama to Nicaragua, via Costa Rica.

The trip will be more than 480km and Lynn and her friend and training partner Jackie Brown will have just five days to complete it, sleeping on the roadside

by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

in tents along the way.

The money raised will go towards Genesis Research Trust, a charity launched by Sir Robert Winston to look in to the health of mothers and babies, in particular what causes premature births, stillbirths and miscarriages.

Its fundraising arm, Women for Women, sets all-women challenges around the world, and Lynn and Jackie are taking part in one such.

It will be an interesting experience for Lynn, who describes herself as a "comfort-loving, non-cycling wimp".

She told THE GEM: "I fundraise every year since I ran the London Marathon in 2005. I pick a different charity every year."

"Jackie was already fundraising for Women for Women so I decided to help her this year. I originally wanted to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path but the logistics of it were just too difficult."

"I thought, well, Jackie's already doing this cycle challenge so why don't I join in? My husband just looked at me and laughed because I'm no good on a bike."

"My biggest fear was falling off. I had no road sense on a bike and was inexperienced, so I was terrified of traffic."

"I stopped and gave way to everything but my neighbour, a keen cyclist, came out and helped me so I've grown in confidence."

"I've always been confident in getting fit enough, because I ran marathons and half marathons until my knees gave way."

"Jackie and I train two or three times a week; training runs twice a week and then one long run."

"We've been given a great training guide by the charity to follow."



"Sport Wales have also been fabulous. I have access to physios and dieticians and they are all so enthusiastic and keen to help."

Lynn and Jackie have already planned events to help them reach their target of £7,000 to get to Central America.

Later this month they have organised a ramble around Ewenny and St Brides Major, with lunch at the Farmer's Arms.

Then in June they have organised a bus trip to Bath.

A one-off Zumba event was so popular it now takes place every Thursday at 7pm (term time) at Peterston School Hall, and the showpiece will be a return of the highly successful 'Ladies' Glamour and Sparkle Night' at Peterston Village Hall in October.

To sponsor Lynn you can visit her fundraising page at: www.justgiving.co.uk/Lynn-Finch, and for more information or to register for one of their events you can email Lynn on: lynfinch1961@aol.com.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Bathwick Tyres Ltd - Unit 5A, Penybont Industrial Estate, Coity Road, Bridgend - Free standing post mounted sign.

Wales and West Housing - Coed Parc Library, Park Street, Bridgend -

Program of works to several trees including felling and maintenance (1952) (Glam CC No. 08).

Ms Catrin Morgan - 13 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - Remove shoots, branches of 3 x sycamore trees, shorten limbs of ash tree.

Mrs Foster - Ty Per-Llan, Laleston, Bridgend - Fell sycamore in rear garden. Mr John Llewellyn - 8 St Davids Close, Brackla - Remove load bearing limb. Mr D Dummett - 99 West Park Drive, Porthcawl - Two storey side extension, first floor rear extension

and provide forecourt parking.

Mr Phillip Tovey - 12 Fairplace Close, Broadlands - Proposed conservatory to rear.

Mr Chris Tough - 1 Hendre Gardens, Pencoed - Detached single garage.

Nantymoel Amateur Boxing Club - Former ex-Servicemens Club, 5/6 Bethania Row, Ogmere Vale - Change of use from social club to amateur boxing and fitness gym and raise roof to create mezzanine level.

Mr Ian Williams - 6 Golden Terrace, Maesteg - Single storey bathroom extension and shed to rear garden.

Mrs Muriel Bailey - 1 Danygraig Cottages, Caedre Street, Bridgend - External wall/paintwork to existing rough rendering.

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water - Cycle path adjacent 34 Bryn Road, Tondur - Install sewage pump station to alleviate flood issues within Heol Adare Estate.

Mr Paul Wyburn - Plot 7, Land off Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws - Single storey dwelling and garage; resub of P/11/931/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Lampard/Maguire - 24 Long Acre Drive, Porthcawl - Remove existing conservatory and erect single storey kitchen extension.

Mr W R Wareham - 20 Long Acre, Brackla - Convert garage to habitable room.

Mr Peter Bailey - 21 St Johns Drive, Pencoed - Single storey extension to rear to replace garage, relocate entrance door, alter existing roof dormers.

Mr Lee Ackerman - 7 (Plot 24) Llynfi Court, Maesteg Park, Maesteg - Extend the P/07/309/FUL consent for a further five years for construction of single detached dwelling.

Mr L Batchelor - 78 Pant Hirwaun, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend - Erection of Detached garage.

Mr and Mrs N Williams - 3 Locks Common, Porthcawl - Alterations to front and side elevations (retention of completed works).

Mr Martin Tee - 19 St Georges Avenue, Litchard - Demolish existing garage and front porch and construct new garage extension and loft conversion.

Dr M David - Estoril, 19 West Drive, Porthcawl - Proposed bedroom extension.

Wilderness Allotments -

Heol y Goedwig, Porthcawl - Include land into allotments, provision of disabled parking space and reposition and erect boundary fence.

Miss M S Lewis - 10 Lletai Avenue, Pencoed - Single storey rear extension to provide bedroom and bathroom and hard standing to front garden area.

Fulgo Developments - Land at Dunraven Business Park, Coychurch Road - Temporary change of use of land for six years to form car park for Royal Mail.

Mr Owen Griffiths - Owen G Motors, Coychurch Road - Construct car park on the former Owen G motors site.

Aspire Planning Limited - Land at Court Colman, Old Coachmans Road, Bridgend - Erection of two

wind turbines with tower heights of up to 20 metres.

Mr Paul Thomas - 17 Bryn Road, Coychurch - Erect 2m high fence extending from side to boundary wall to enclose rear garden.

Mr Jonathan Dare - 21 Talbot Street, Maesteg - Convert existing flat to two self contained flats.

Mr Les Parslow - Llangewydd Farm Buildings, Llangewydd - Erect building for storage of farm equipment.

Mr Ramazan Kanal - Maesteg Charcoal Grill, 25 Commercial Street, Maesteg - Vary hours of opening 0900-2400 hrs Sunday - Thursday and 0900-0100 hrs Friday-Saturday.

Mrs Lesley Legg - 3 East Avenue, Kenfig Hill - Garage and ground floor extension.

Guardian Global - Merllin House, Brunel Court, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle - Install mezzanine floors and fit out existing industrial units including new windows and fire escape.

Mrs Karen Oliver - 32 Chantal Avenue, Penyfa - Double storey rear side extension.

Celtic Tyres Services - Princes Way, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Proposed industrial storage building.

Mr E Francis - 6 Heol Waldassen, Pencoed - Rear single storey extension.

Mrs V Collins - 44 Pant Hirwaun, Heol y Cyw - Re-develop roof of existing conservatory and internal structural alterations.

One Wind Renewables Ltd - Haregrove Farm,

SPONSORS OF RENOVATION SCHEME ARE PRAISED AT BOXING EVENING



ABOVE: Callum Powell (right) of Caerau beat Ben Osbourne on points.

BELOW: The two young boxers in action.



**Report by
PHILIP IRWIN
PHOTOGRAPHS
by THOMAS SMITH
www.thomasmithpix.com**

A FAMILY project to renovate a local boxing club is nearing completion, and the most recent contribution was made by an evening of amateur bouts in Bryntirion.

The ambitious plan to raise £75,000 for Porthcawl and Pyle Boxing Club was hatched in 2011 by former Wales international hooker Jonathan Humphreys and his brother Richard.

They decided to fundraise in memory of their father, Colin Humphreys, the former Welsh champion boxer, who died in 2011. The brothers knew that their father, who used to train at the gym when he was competing, had always wanted to see the boxing club returned to its former glory.

With their brother-in-law, Ed Ellis, they made a start last year with a rugby evening in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, and the latest fundraising night was an evening of amateur boxing in the Ogmor Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntirion.

A series of bouts featured local boxers from Porthcawl and Pyle, Bridgend, and Caerau boxing clubs against opposition from around Wales and across the border.

In a competitive night, local boxers had mixed fortunes. For Porthcawl and Pyle, Sean Evans won on

points over Nick Driscoll of Splott.

However, there were points defeats for Charles Jones and Louis Jones, and Rees Thomas lost in the second round when the referee stepped in to stop the contest.

The two Bridgend boxers, Alex Cunick and Gareth Thomas, both won on points.

There was an extra accolade for Gareth Thomas, as his fight against James Williams of Carmarthen was voted the 'best bout' of the night.

For Caerau, young Callum Powell won his fight on points, while Liam Sheran lost on the judges' decision.

Before the boxing started, Ed Ellis thanked sponsors who had come forward to help the project.

He said: "I would like to thank Dunraven Windows, who sponsored the evening.

"Also, tonight we have had a plasma TV donated by Paul Williams of One Vision, and Kelvin of BGS plumbing has donated a combi boiler."

He said that the Bank Community Force programme had given £6,275, while the Ford Motor Company had given £2,000.

Porthcawl Town Council had contributed (£20,000), and there were donations from BCBC's town improvement grant (£8,000), the Police Property Fund



ABOVE: James Williams (Carmarthen) and Gareth Thomas of Bridgend (right) at the end of their bout and (TOP RIGHT) with Jonathan and Richard Humphreys, receiving their best bout trophies.



ABOVE: Rashani Jones (Bristol, on left) who stopped Porthcawl and Pyle's Rees Thomas in the second round, receives his trophy from Porthcawl butcher Charlie Tantum.



ABOVE: Bridgend's Alex Cunick (left) beat Terence Fairbanks of Pontypridd on points.

BELOW:

Action from the best bout as Gareth Thomas throws a left jab.



Six of the best cadets at 2117 Kenfig Hill



Back row (left to right): Cdt Sgt J Aston, Inst Cdt Flt Sgt N Cooper, Cdt Cpl J Townsend. Front row: Cdt Cpl J Aston, Cdt Cpl H Maine. (Cdt Cpl J Norris was not available for the photo call)

AFTER attending pre-promotion board selection, six Cadets were selected to attend the NCO promotion board for real.

The board consisted of Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding, as president, along with Sergeants J Evans, R Peckham, K Gould and Instructor Staff Cadet Flt Sgt N Fitzgibbon.

The vacancies to be covered were four junior NCOs and two senior NCOs.

The candidates were asked a wide range of questions covering many aspects of the ATC, such as basic knowledge of the ATC and hypothetical scenarios about welfare and disciplinary issues.

The promotion boards ran for most of the evening and the results were announced on final parade.

The successful cadets were Instructor Cdt Flt Sgt N Cooper, Cdt Sgt J Aston, and Cdt Cpls J Norris, H

Maine, J Aston and J Townsend. However, the six cannot rest of their laurels just yet as they are on a three month probationary period, during which they will be regularly assessed.

At the end of the three months, they will be attending their final board to confirm their ranks, one way or the other.

The promotion boards are held not only with the purpose of selecting new NCOs, and to advance others, but also to give them the experience of an interview situation that they will certainly call on in later life.

If you are male or female and at least 13 years old then why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC? We are also looking for adult staff members and Civilian Committee members.

The squadron parades on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information, contact the Squadron on parade nights, telephone 01656 670125.

**Lindsay Thomas
Secretary Civilian Committee**

Young cadets log on to beat the recession

AS the recession continues to bite, many charities are finding it harder than ever to raise much-needed funds.

However, supporters of 2318 (Aberkenfig) Squadron Air Cadets can now boost their favourite cause simply by shopping online.

They have joined thousands of good causes raising money through easyfundraising – an online gateway to more than 2,000 well-known retailers.

When supporters shop using the links on the easyfundraising site, the Squadron receive a free donation of up to 15 per cent of the purchase price.

In one day, Squadron chairperson, Stuart Morgan, raised £2.70 just by shopping online at Viking, the stationery people.

With British shoppers set to spend a staggering £39 billion online this

year alone, Mr Morgan is keen for as many people as possible to sign up.

He said: "Things are very tough at the moment and we understand that, so we're having to look at more creative ways to raise vital funds for 2318 (Aberkenfig) Squadron Air Cadets.

"Our mission is to be a modern, dynamic, sustainable organisation of choice for young people, offering fun and challenging opportunities.

"We can only do that if we have the necessary resources."

Featuring high street names such as M&S, Argos and Tesco, easyfundraising has already raised helped UK charities raise more than £3 million.

To support the Squadron, visit: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/2318aberkenfig> and follow the instructions.

Stuart Morgan

ROADSHOW PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES 8TH THROUGH 12TH MAY!

By Jason Williams
STAFF WRITER

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your cleaning early this year. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens Tuesday 8th May in Bridgend and is looking for antiques and collectables. Remember those Dinky cars you played with as a kid? What about those old Hornby train sets? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW HAS BEEN TOURING THE WORLD SINCE 2001. THIS YEAR ALONE, WE WILL VISIT 3,000 CITIES AND OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL CASH IN!

forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

Roadshow representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewellery, coins, antiques and collectables, just about anything can be sold at the



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DIRECTIONS - 01633-412777
INFORMATION - 01656-668811

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HOW IT WORKS

- Gather items of interest from your attic, garage, cellar, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring.
- No appointment is necessary.
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges.
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees.

TREASUREHUNTERSROADSHOW.COM

"It's a modern day goldrush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, Roadshow Representative.

Roadshow. This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, we will see hundreds of people during the five day event. We will see a few unusual items, but mostly we will see a lot of old coins, gold jewellery, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Colchester, a retired dentist walked in with over 2 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual, wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over £5,000 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 2 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Archie, more



Above—Roadshow Specialist analyzes a gold ring brought in by a local resident in Edinburgh.

than you might think have some sort of gold they can cash in. Davis says, "The Roadshow receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event."

Broken jewellery, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices. Archie Davis commented, "Other top categories at the Roadshow would have to be silver crowns and other coins, pocket watches and my personal favourite, old toys." Davis told me a story about a visitor at a recent Roadshow in Newbury. "An elderly gentleman walked into the show and asked if we were interested in old toys. He explained that he had kept all of the toys from his childhood and that they were outside in his car. I walked outside, and to my surprise his car was full of the coolest old toys I had ever seen: big old metals trucks, pedal cars, train sets, cast iron toys, he had it all. At the end of that day, he ended up walking away with over £3,000 for his old toys. His last comment to me was, 'Well, I guess it's time to let 'em go.'"

Whether you have 2 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a car full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the Roadshow this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

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JEWELLERY Gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, all types of stones and metals, rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc. (including broken jewellery) all costume jewellery wanted.

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.

TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS All makers and types of toys: Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox/Lesney, Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, Battery Toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets—Hornby, Bachmann, Marklin, Lionel, all gauges, accessories (individual cars), dolls—Barbie dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple.



MILITARY ITEMS & SWORDS WWI, WWII, etc: swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters. The older the swords, the better.



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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences I WOULD like to pay my respects to the family of Mike Meredith, who recently passed away, along with Martin Griffiths the headteacher, staff, governors and everyone asso- ciated with Tynrhoeol Primary School.

Mike was the chair of governors to the school, and had been associated with it for a number of years.

I met Mike when I was a governor at the school and he was always good-humoured and diligent in attempting to get the best facilities for the school.

He was a forward thinking gentleman and Tynrhoeol was one of the first schools in the borough to have an IT suite, for which he, along with the PTA, worked hard to raise the funds needed.

Mike lived in the Cowbridge area, and his funeral is on Tuesday, May 15, in Holy Cross Church at 2pm.

Railway enthusiasts I HAVE received revised information regarding the charter train titled the 'Central Wales Explorer' which will be passing through Bridgend at approxi- mately 11.30am on Saturday, May 12.

Steam engine buffs will be interested to know that the train will be towed by two LMS class 5 steam locomotives numbers 44871 and 45407 – the last engine is named the Lancashire Fusilier.

Choir concert ST CRALLO'S Church, Coychurch, is the venue for the annual concert of the Mid Glamorgan mixed choir next Saturday, May 12 at 7pm.

Joining the choir in the concert will be two instrumentalists, guest artists from Gilwern, known as the Deuawd Arddunol – who play the piano and flute.

The choir became mixed in 1979, and for 12 years the musical

director has been Mrs Norma Ridout, originally from Maesteg, who now lives in Llangynwyd.

She studied music at the Welsh College of Music and the University of Wales and has a teaching diploma in music and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The accompanist is Mrs Marina Hilliard, who joined them 18 months ago. Originally from the Ukraine, she studied at various colleges in that country, and had played the piano from the age of seven. Marina now lives in Pontypridd and is a piano tutor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

The choir has raised over £2,500 for charities in the last 18 months.

Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from choir members or at the door.

Mixed choir THE Noteworthy choir from Maesteg will be performing in a charity concert tomor- row (May 11) at St Mary's Church, Nolton, at 7pm to raise money for the Urology department at the Princess of Wales.

The choir will have three guest soloists – Sally Kingsbury, Simon Mullins and Rhodri Skyrme.

Rhodri is only 12 years of age but is a musician of great talent; he plays the trumpet and is a member of the Cardiff and Vale Youth Orchestra and the Symphonic Brass based in Cardiff.

He regularly plays in concerts and is a star artist with the Talgarth Male Voice Choir.

Simon is a tenor of some distinction and is a recent graduate at the University of Wales, Trinity St David, Carmarthen where he achieved a BA honours degree in acting. He has appeared in productions throughout the country.

Simon won the Bridgend young singer of the year competition in 2008, and gained his amateur musical education with Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society.

Tickets £7, available

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycod1@yahoo.co.uk



from Tony Mullins on 01656 733542 or at the door.

Carers meet BRIDGEND Carers' centre at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479), is a social centre for volun- teers who look after parents, disabled chil- dren, friends or neigh- bours.

On Monday, May 14, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm-4pm.

On May 15 between 10.30am-12 noon, there will be a meeting of the Health and Well Being group. Also on May 15 between 10.30am-12.30pm, the REVIVE group discuss carers' difficulties.

Musical competitions AN eisteddfod is being held in Treorchy Primary School, Glyncoli Road, Treorchy on June 30 and the extended clos- ing date for entries will now be May 30.

It is open to all children in the following school years up to 18 plus, years 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 6 and 7, 8 and 9, 10 and 11 and 12 and 13.

To apply for an entry form or if further information is required phone Rhianon on 07791 375519.

Tondu Primary THESE Tondu Primary pupils have attained full marks in submitted homework last term:

Cynffig class:
Maddie Allen, Carwyn Barry, Wil Davies, Sophie Featham, Danielle Howells, Logan Hubbard, Tom Joynson, Macy Mabley, Tyler Phillips, Iestyn Rees, Emily Tuck, Ella Williams, Callum Withey, Noah Yates..

Ewenni class: Sophie Barrett, Noah Barry, Kacey Floyd, Evan Humphries, A-Jay Hopson, Elis O'Connor, Tia Richards, Fabian Tapner, Sam Thomas, Dan Williams, Aleksei Wood.

Garw class: Cameron Baker, Joshua Collier, Jamie Coombs, Seren Dare, Jessica Evans, Harri Gould, Iestyn Griffiths, Brook Hawkins, Olivia Herbert, Owain Hopkins, Ieuan Lane, Holly Lewis, Maddie Rose, Justin Ruck, Amelia Webb, Olivia Webb.

Llynfi class: Tegan Chambers, Ben Fisher, Kiera Hill, Benji Lock, Frazer Marshall, Molly Price, Tyler Richards, Cleo Tapner, Iestyn Williamson.

Ogwr class: Libby Barrett, Lola Brown, Morgane Chauvel, Leianna-Mai Darks, Ellie-Mai Davies, Lauren Davies, Mya-Paige Fahey, Tia Featham, Amy Brice-Richards, Eeva Salo.

Rhondda class: Garin Atkinson, Katie Baker, Lowri Chambers, Siobhan Cundle, Shannon Evans, Dewi Gronow, Jacob Hale, Tom Howells, Joseph Humphreys, Holly Sayce, Dionne Tapner, Chantel Williams.

Taf class: Lowri Cook, Anesha Hopkins, Sian Kinsman, Louise Payne, Cameron Shears, Amy Thomas.

Usk class: Jack Bailey, Sam Hatt, Sadie Payne, Loren Taylor, Daniel Thomas.

The following pupils represented the school in the recent Rotary Club Quizzical Superteam competition: Jack Bailey, Lowri Chambers, Eeva Salo and Dionne Tapner.

Also, Matthew Brown, Lowri Chambers, Sian Kinsman, and Ben Pritchard-Davies represented the school in the road safety quiz at The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl on May 2.

Mr Jon Milgate, a local bee keeper, gave an informative talk on the art of bee keeping to the pupils of Cynffig and Ewenni classes on May 2.

The Rotary Club is organising a charity fun walk at Porthcawl Esplanade on Sunday, May 12 at 11am.

For full details, contact 01656 645148 or www.rotarybridgend.org.uk.

The choir has been rehearsing new song and dance routines since January and this will be the first concert the choir will perform in front of the public.

It will have on show new accompanist Rhianon Williams-Hale, who was born in Cardiff but raised in Barry and now resides in Treorchy.

She has previously accompanied Bridgend, Treorchy and Pontarddulais male voice choirs and has been musical director of the Ynysybwl ladies choir for the last 10 years. She has also served as associate con-

ductor of the Cwmbach Male Choir.

Rhianon has just been appointed the musical director of the Bridgend male choir – Welsh National Eisteddfod competition winners twice in the last 10 years.

Tickets £3, from Sian on 01656 732385 or any choir member.

Tabernacl date CÔR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Voice Choir) will be performing in a concert at the Tabernacl Chapel, Pontycymer on Saturday, May 19, at 7pm, to help raise

funds for Ellie Jury.

Ellie, from Blaengarw was born 11 weeks early in July 2009 weighing just 2lb 8oz.

Her premature birth has caused complications and she has been diagnosed with a form of cerebral palsy.

There is an operation available in the USA that would help Ellie to have a normal and fulfilling life. The operation is very expensive, however, at almost £40,000 and the aim of the appeal is to raise funds to enable Ellie to receive this life-changing procedure.

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THIS LATEST SLICE OF PIE FEELS A LITTLE BIT STALE!

Reunited, and it feels so good... so sang Peaches and Herb, but as anyone who has attended a school reunion will attest, realising that that horrible, ignorant school pupil who was in your class is now rich and successful, feels anything but good.

The subject of reunions crops up in *American Reunion*, which sees the cast of the *American Pie* franchise hook back up again, 13 years after our first slice.

This time around, the the guys and gals (among them Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott, and Eddie Kay Thomas) meet up again to see how their lives have changed from their

teenage years, where hilarity will, no doubt, ensue...

When *American Pie* hit cinemas in 1999, it went beyond mere extreme comedy, the mix of heart and characters that were likeable and relatable making it a *Porky's* for the pre-millennial generation. While the two slices slightly blunted the success of the first, *American Reunion's* promise of seeing the old gang back together again was a more than appealing prospect.

In actuality, the film certainly raises laughs aplenty, but as fond as it is to see where the characters have ended up more than a decade later, it can't escape a feeling of being somewhat contrived and reliant on jokes harking back to the original rather than creating its own identity.

What the film does best is in amping up just how much teenage life

has changed so much in the intervening periods – the parties wilder, the behaviour less restrained – with the gang looking on; the sense of time passing is felt acutely, teenage concerns of proms and underage drinking giving way to marriage and job crises.

However, aside from a subplot which sees the boys anger a group of teens, the comedy tends to rely more on setpieces from yesteryear – so Jim has an embarrassing mishap in the kitchen, the "This one time at band camp..." line is trotted out again, and the boys find themselves unwittingly caught up in events that spiral out of control.

With *Harold and Kumar...* directors Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossburg on duty here, there is no shortage of gross-out comedy moments on show, but while the pair show a more restrained eye than with their two most famous characters, there is nothing here to really get you excited, nothing that really sticks out in the memory, the film almost a victim of past successes.

The cast (some of whom it's fair to say were probably looking forward to a payday) all reprise their roles with ease, their turns fitting

the characters and material like a glove; but the plaudits really go to Seann William Scott and Eugene Levy.

Stifler is a character that lives long in the memory and here, William Scott's foul mouthed hilarious turn really propels the film.

While those around him have grown up, Stifler is still trying to party like it's 1999, and his moments are by far the funniest in the film, run close by Levy (arguably the breakout of the first film) who, as Jim's widowed dad, enjoys a meeting with Stifler's mum that raises laughs and touches hearts.

With nostalgia such a big selling point, it isn't surprising that we have been brought another slice of Pie; after all, to my generation, the original was as important as *The Inbetweeners* is to this one.

But too much looking back and not enough looking forward is a dangerous thing, and that is what does for *American Reunion* ultimately – it is a film that puts too much emphasis on the past, and as nice as it is to catch up with Jim and the rest of them, there isn't much fresh mileage.

VERDICT: Not quite the comeback hoped for,

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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American Reunion manages to raise laughs, but its reliance on rehashing old jokes and situations feels nice, but offers nothing new.

The performances are likeable enough and the film makes for easy viewing, but fans of the franchise will feel this latest slice of Pie is a little stale. **Average.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *American Pie* (1999), *Porky's* (1982), *The Inbetweeners Movie* (2011).



Students shine in show



STAGECOACH students from Bridgend and the Vale recently performed at St David's Hall, Cardiff. 'An Evening of Movies and Musicals', produced by Matthew Hampson of M&M Productions was in aid of Breast Cancer Care Cymru, and featured an exceptional line-up of stars from the world of musical theatre, opera and comedy.

The 50 Stagecoach children were thrilled to sing with an 80 piece orchestra, as part of a 300-strong choir, and help to support such an important charity.

The evening featured well-known performers including Shân Cothi, Wynne Evans (star of 'Go Compare' ad), James Fox (*Fame Academy*, *Chess The Musical*), Keith Jack (BBC's *Any Dream Will Do*) and Mike Doyle.

One of the stars of the night, Keith Jack, currently touring as the lead in the musical *Joseph*, has now invited Stagecoach children to perform with him in July when his own show *Up Close and Personal* tours venues in Wales.

For more information about Stagecoach Theatre Arts, contact Helene and Rob Reynolds on 01446 781454 or visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend.

AUCTION

A **GLAMORGAN** Hunt auction will take place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebettyn, on Friday May 11. Viewing from 4pm and auction 7pm. Many equestrian and other items including old prints, toys, clothing and promises.

IOLU WALK

THE Iolo Morgannwg Community Walk – Cowbridge to St Hilary, takes place on Saturday May 12, part of the Valeways Walking Festival programme.

Start at 10am at the Old Hall Gardens by the pond. Return around 3.30pm.

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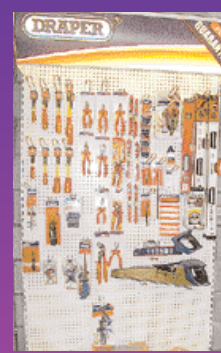
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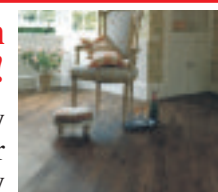
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Out and About with The GEM

Tea party at top of world!



MARIE Curie Cancer Care is asking local people to hold a **Blooming Great Tea Party** this June and July to help raise funds for the charity.

It can be as simple as a cuppa with colleagues, a vintage inspired tea party or even a party to

celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Mountaineer Richard Parks, pictured at the summit of Aconcagua recently showing his support for the Blooming Great Tea Party, proves that it doesn't matter where you are you can pop the kettle on.

Call 08700 340 040 for more information.

Indulge your craft favourites at Cardiff City football stadium

A BRAND new craft and hobby show is coming to Cardiff City Stadium on May 25-26, where the Welsh craft community can indulge their hobbies with national favourites such as Stamp Addicts,

Stampasaurus and Mulberry Silks, as well as promoting local businesses like Nantiago, 'The Bead Room @Boxes n Busts' and The Beads Nest, and many more.

There will also be a wide range of talented Welsh crafts people showcasing their handcrafted goodies and products for those who would just like to come and shop!

From beautiful handmade leather items to cupcakes and

jewellery, there are some fabulous items all locally made.

Entrance is just £3, which includes a free cup of tea or coffee, and there will be goody bags for the first 50 visitors, so please join us for a great day out.

Opening times are 9.30am-5pm on Friday and 9am-5.30pm on Saturday.

We are always offering a range of great workshops from beginners to advanced if you fancy trying your hand at something new.

Please call Sara on 02920643690 or email: saralouise.kear-smith@compass-group.co.uk for further details.

Hard of Hearing Club MONTHLY meetings of the Penarth Hard of Hearing Club are held at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodlands Place, Penarth, on the first Monday of every month (second Monday if there is a Bank Holiday) at 2pm.

Tea available and regular guest speakers present.

Coffee morning

ALL Saint's Church, Park Road, Barry, will be holding its annual coffee morning on Saturday, May 12 at 10.30am-12 noon.

There will be the usual cake stall, bric-a-brac, tombola and two raffles.

Admission is 50p, including a drink. All proceeds go to church funds. Everyone is welcome.

Live music

THERE'S live soul music at Gordon Bennett on Saturday May 12 where Nation Stack will be performing from 9pm. Entry is free.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, May 13 at 2pm, the Welsh walking club will meet for the 'Scenic Sigingstone' walk at the roadside opposite the Victoria Inn,

Sigingstone, Llantwit Major, CF71 7LP.

On Thursday, May 24 at 10.30am, 'Into the Rising Sun,' meeting at Llantwit Major beach car park.

Unusual plants fair

AN unusual plants fair, including specialist nurseries from across Wales and the borders, is being hosted by Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Penarth, on Sunday May 13, 10am-6pm.

Free entry to both the fair and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. Parking also free. For further information contact: 01446 774036.

Diabetes meeting

DIABETES UK's Vale of Glamorgan Voluntary Group will be meeting on May 15 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, at 7.30pm, when the speaker is Mrs Eilan Blanks, volunteer development officer of Diabetes UK Cymru, Cardiff.

New members are always welcome. Telephone 01446 746639 for more information.

Penarth exhibition

THE Penarth Hard of Hearing Club is holding an exhibition on Wednesday May 16 in the foyer of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital,

Ynysmaerdy, Llantrisant, from 10am-3pm.

Live music

LIVE soul music from The Don at the Gordon Bennett on Saturday May 19 from 9pm. Entry is free.

Praise in the Park

ST PETER'S CHURCH, Church Road, Rhosce, is celebrating its centenary this year.

On May 27 we are holding a community event - Praise in the

Park.

The event will be held in Milburn Park, Pontygarn Road from 3pm-5pm and will be led by the Royal Air Force St Athan Voluntary Band, children from Rhosce Primary School and St Peter's Worship Team.

The event promises to offer something for all ages - with lots of audience participation!

If wet weather - the event will be held in Community Hall, Stuart Road, Rhosce.

Plant & Produce Sale

at Penmark Village Centre

on Sunday 13th May

10.00am - 12.00 noon

Plants - Cakes - Preserves - Pickles

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Grilled Sirloin Steak (£2.50 supp. per person)

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Diane (onion, mushroom, tomato and garlic sauce)

or

Pork Tenderloin cooked in

Massala Wine, Onions and Mushrooms,

served with Rice

or

Tagliatelle Roma Fresh Pasta in a sauce of Tomato,

White Wine, Pancetta, Mushrooms and Cream served

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and Parmesan Cheese.

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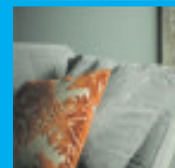
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The National Gardens Scheme is ready to open

Llandaff Gardens, Cardiff

Combined admission £3, Saturday May 12, 11am-4pm. SET in a beautiful location along the River Taff and a short distance from the picturesque Llandaff Cathedral, the owners are enthusiastic gardeners who have many years of experience in horticulture and are more than happy to share it.

Gaynor's Garden is a sheltered sloping garden full of spring bulbs and cottage garden plants. An arbour, octagonal greenhouse and small pond complete the scene.

Under a pergola covered in a mature grapevine and clematis, a deck path leads to a quiet area at the



One of the Barry gardens.

top of the garden.

Rosemary's Garden – walk through a small woodland garden with specimen hydrangea and rhododendron, spring bulbs, stunningly white silver birch.

Raised herb bed beside a decked path leading to seasonal containers and a pergola covered in wedding day climbing rose.

Follow a newly installed stream around a well-stocked, raised planting area.

Barry Gardens, Barry

47 Aneurin Road, 11 Arno Road, Cae Gwyn, 1 North Walk, 104 Pontypridd Road. Sunday May 13, admission £5, 12pm-5pm.

THERE are five lovely gardens situated in picturesque surroundings.

Among the selection is a small plant lover's garden with ponds,

rock gardens, alpine sinks and winter flowering shrubs, snowdrops and hellebores.

There is also 'Pets Corner' – a lovely arrangement of plants named after animals in this ever-changing garden with more than 600 containers.

A third location has a more formal front garden with herbaceous perennials, and a cottage-style rear garden including wildlife pond and quirky touches throughout.

Pontypridd Road hosts a garden with delightful hidden areas.

Cae Gwyn is a large secret garden. Please note: not all the gardens are within walking distance.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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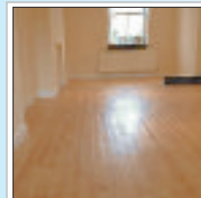
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Visit a local garden

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Cyncoed and Llanishen Gardens

Admission £4, open Sunday, May 13, 2pm-6pm.

THIS interesting group has expanded

from two to four gardens this year.

Three of the suburban gardens were carved out of woodland in the 1930s when the houses were built and they are surrounded by trees.

The fourth house was originally a Victorian cottage.

These gardens have a multitude of shrubs, climbing roses, clematis, hostas, succulents and ferns and many unusual plants.

The owners include sculptures and features in their gardens and spend time on landscaping.

Two of the gardens have been maintained by the same family owners for nearly half a century.

Tony Riddler's Garden

Admission £3, Sunday, May 13, 2pm-5pm.

GRAPHIC designer's 1/3acre garden behind a modest terrace house.

The garden is divided into a series of formal spaces and vistas largely defined by narrow stepped pathways, sculptures, yew hedges and box topiary. Regret, no children.

Featured in 'Discovering Welsh Gardens' by Stephen Anderton.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Barry Rugby Football Club – The Reservoir Field, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry – To extend to eastern side of existing clubhouse new lounge and toilet facilities; to extend viewing area and front entrance porch, to include internal alterations.

Mr Rhydian Lloyd – Ysgol Cymraeg, Gwaun y Nant, Amroth Court, Barry – Proposed single storey extension.

Mrs A Richards – 7 Beach Road, Penarth – Cut down fir tree in front garden.

Miss Rozanne Lord – Hen Felin, Duffryn – Removal of three short sections of hedgerow.

Mr Andrew Thomas – Burton Cottage, East Aberthaw – Proposed indoor swimming pool and associated structure, to replace existing outdoor (open air) swimming pool.

Mr Hugh Thomas – Rock Cottage, Fommon – Extend existing garden room and utility room and combine with existing conservatory making one large garden room at ground floor level. Also construct one additional bedroom at first floor level.

Mrs Lynda Williams – Moorlands Farm, Wick Road, Llantwit Major – Change of use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwellings at land and buildings at Moorlands Farm, Wick Road, Llantwit Major.

Mr John Williams – Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmere by Sea – Demolition of former hotel and construction of nine apartments including car parking and landscaping.

Asbri Planning Limited – Lake Farm Barns, St Athan Road, Cowbridge – Use of the former outbuilding as a residential annex ancillary to the main dwelling.

Mr Anthony Kerslake – Brook Farm, Llanmaes – Re-design of previously approved 4-bed detached dwellings with double garages, under planning application 2006/00599/FUL at Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Plots 1 and 2.

Gundersen Enterprises Limited – The Mill, Chapel Farm, Port Road, Rhosce – Waste recovery and recycling process or processes in respect of motor vehicles, refrigerators, computers and allied items.

Mr Howard Metcalfe – RNLI Barry Dock Station (disuse), Pierhead, Docks, Barry – Works to provide pedestrian access on slipway.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Derrick Ross – 56 Brook Street, Barry – To retain extension to rear of existing end of terrace dwelling and convert to three one bedroom units. Convert existing coachhouse into refuse/recycling store, bicycle and general storage for the units with the rear garden used for clothes drying and amenity space (clothes drying can also be provided to each house).

Farmhouse Developments Ltd – The Cottage, The Red Lion Inn, Pendoylan – Demolition and construction of a dilapidated single storey cottage to form a two storey living accommodation and change of use from C1 to C3.

Mr Roger Bassett – Highmead, Pen y Lan, Newton, Cowbridge – Extension to north of lounge area and undercroft; Alterations to kitchen, utility room, east wing; Alterations to bedrooms, south wing; New raised roof area to incorporate bedroom/bathroom/study; Replace existing concrete roof tiles with roof slate.

Miss Allison Sing – 73 Cae Canol, Caversham Park, Penarth – Small extension to the rear of the property.

Mr Simon Leyshon – 44 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys – Single storey extension to side of existing property, to incorporate a utility room.

Mr Adrian George – 78 Lavernock Road, Penarth – Two storey side extension.

Mr Trevor Taylor – Land at Hill Farm, Hensol –

Application for the erection of an agricultural building and associated farm track and entrance improvements.

Mrs Victoria Williams – Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian – Refurbishment and extension of single residential dwelling house and integral garage.

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Leanne Edmonds; based in the Vale, who specialise in building bespoke, luxurious Orangeries.

"We are both passionate about creating beautiful living spaces, and our range of orangeries are just that. Each build is completely bespoke, tailor made to our clients specification," explains Leanne.

"Vale Orangeries has completed numerous orangery builds throughout south Wales, with many showhomes available for private viewings.

"We have a wide range of styles available to view at our client's homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for yourselves the quality of our work."

Dean explains: "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. We ensure the whole experience is enjoyable and stress-free. There is no need to concern yourself with architects, planning or building control as this is all part of the package."

"The only planning we want you to worry about is where to put your sofa – but we can even help with that too!"

If you are thinking of an extension or conservatory, but want something different, call Dean or Leanne on 01446 746353 to discuss how a Vale Orangeries orangery can work for the way you live.

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Going that extra length... to raise much-needed money for the Llandough Breast Centre

A CHARITY walk to raise money for the Breast Centre at Llandough Hospital is being arranged for May 27 at Cottrell Park Golf Club, where children will be able to go along and learn about exotic animals in a 'Walk on the Wild Side'.

Lengths for Life is a fundraising group set up by staff at the centre, along with passionate fundraisers, that ensures the people of the Vale have the best treatment possible if they are diagnosed with the disease.

It is one of their core fundraising events of 2012, and they hope that as many people as possible will turn up to support the work of the centre's staff.

Justina Simpson is one of the founding members of Lengths for Life, and she spoke to The GEM about the charity.

She said: "Lengths for Life is a major fundraising drive which is in its second year. It is absolutely crucial for the treatment and service of cancer patients at Llandough Hospital Breast Centre.

"There is so much we need to buy for the care and comfort of the patients. We also want to push the people on the front lines in to the media eye, the nurses and the patients."

"Walk on the Wild Side" is a great opportunity to boost their funds, and it is set to be a fun day out for all, as Ms Simpson explained: "We want to educate children and give them a fun day

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

out. We've got lots of wild animals like geckos and pythons along the route for them to say hello to."

Sarah Edwards is an employee at the golf club, and also works at the Breast Centre in Llandough. She added that the walk would provide a fun day out for families.

She told The GEM: "As part of the fundraising group, and as a mum of two, I suggested the Breast Centre organise an event that would be hugely fun for the whole family, but also really educational.

"Children and parents will be wowed by the breathtaking scenery, but what's even more special is the wild and wonderful creatures they will encounter on their walk.

"From geckos and lizards to snakes and meerkats, this really is a walk on the wild side."

Golf club member Louise Case knows more than most how vital the care the Breast Centre provides is. She told The GEM about her struggle fighting the disease.

She said: "As a fairly fit and healthy golfer, I was shocked to discover a lump in my breast.

"Initially, I had several appointments over several weeks at the University Hospital outpatients department for a mammogram, biopsy and scanning before the diagnosis was finally confirmed. It was breast cancer, my worst fear!

"Once the diagnosis was formally confirmed, I attended Llandough Hospital for a scan. Mr Moneypenny, a breast consultant, intended to remove the sentinel lymph glands as a slightly less invasive procedure than removing them all completely.

"I then stepped onto the rollercoaster of two lots of surgery in October and November

2009 at Llandough Hospital, then followed 18 months of chemotherapy and Herceptin at Velindre Hospital.

"The opening of the new dedicated unit at Llandough is without doubt a step in the right direction, and avoids the inconsistency of going between two hospitals. The new unit is a one-stop shop, which negates the need for appointments over several weeks for mammograms, scans etc.

"Having these procedures in one day avoids weeks of anguish and worry.

"Although the diagnosis of breast cancer is a devastating blow, I believe that the more personal touch of a dedicated unit helps. For me it was comforting to be able to walk through those doors and to know that everyone else there at least understood in some way how I was feeling."

She also backed the event, adding: "After talking with Sarah Edwards, we agreed that Cottrell Park nature trail would be a most excellent venue to host the 'Lengths for Life' fundraising walk.

"To that end, I would ask anyone young or old to please come and give your support and walk the full 4km, or just as much as you can manage, in aid of the breast unit.

"Although the unit is up and running, more money is needed for equipment and to assist with opening a dedicated teaching facility."

Anyone can raise money for Lengths for Life through any means available, and the charity will be there to support you.

"We set people their own challenge, whether they want to walk, run or have a charity rugby match," Ms Simpson added. "We then help them with sponsor packs that include things like posters and sponsorship forms."

"We appreciate there

is a tough economic climate currently and that is why we appreciate everything you can raise. We don't expect you to raise a fortune! Even if it is just £10 or £20.

"Our core message is 'what lengths would you go to to help people in The Vale with breast cancer?' We want everyone to go extra lengths to raise money."

Another major factor of the charity is that those involved with the day-to-day treatment of cancer patients at the Breast Centre are also involved in the fundraising efforts.

"We've only got a small team, but everyone is hands on," continued Ms Simpson. "The doctors and surgeons are at these events collecting and the nurses do the same.

"That's why I'm so passionate. These people are there when you find out you are ill and despite being so busy they give up their spare time to collect."

"Mr Sumit Goyal is the lead clinician at Llandough. The Breast Centre is his baby. He shouldn't have to do this but he does. He deserves so much credit!"

She concluded by stressing the importance of raising money for the local care centre, where anyone in the Vale who falls ill would receive treatment.

"People often fundraise for the big household names, but what they don't realise is the money doesn't stay in Wales," she added.

"That's what we need to hammer home. If their relatives fall ill, they will get all their treatment at Llandough, so we want the money to stay in the Vale and go to helping local people.

"If all the people who ran for the big charities ran for us, we'd be one of the top centres in the UK."

If you want to take part in the 'Walk on the Wild Side', register at: www.lengthsforlife.co.uk, or call Sarah on 07790 319 001.

TIARAS AND PYJAMAS...

Fundraisers warm up for the walk.



Sleep Walk is a huge success!

LADIES who took part in the 'Tiaras and Pyjamas'-themed Ty Hafan midnight sleep walk on Friday May 4 at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, were thrilled to have a guest appearance from Torchwood star John Barrowman.

After a week of heavy rain and showers the weather was kind to the 800 participants, who began to register from as early as 9.30pm.

Another guest had an uncanny resemblance to Captain Jack Sparrow (aka Johnny Depp). He had the ladies guessing whether Ty Hafan had managed to enlist the support from two celebrities.

Music and continuity was provided by Barry-based Bro Radio, and the girls from Curves led the warm-up routine designed to get those legs stretched ready for the walk, which gave participants the opportunity to show their support for the mums and dads of life-limited children, who rarely experience an uninterrupted night's sleep.

"It was really kind of John to show his support for Ty Hafan in this way," said event organiser Craig Ananin.

"Without a doubt, his involvement encouraged the ladies to register for the event and, in fact, we had to close it at 800 over a week ago so apologies to anyone we had to turn away.



ABOVE: Torchwood star John Barrowman was on hand to support the sleep walking ladies!

"With an ever-increasing number of children and families being referred to Ty Hafan's services it is so important that our events are supported and I would like to

thank all the ladies and the volunteer marshals for helping to make the night a great success."

More photographs will be available for viewing at: www.tyhafan.org.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Can you give Samuel a new home?

SAMUEL is a 10-year-old Spaniel. He is a very sweet older dog who is still active and enjoys his walks.

The centre reports: He gets on well with other dogs, and would love to live with another dog in a quieter home, to show him the ropes.

He suffers from arthritis in his front legs and is on medication to help with this. He is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.

If you are interested in offering Samuel, or any of our other dogs a home, call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend,



Samuel is looking for a new home.

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WHAT'S ON: in brief

Llanmaes plant sale

ON Sunday, May 13, between 11am and 3pm, Llanmaes Social Committee will be holding their annual plant sale in the grounds of Llanmaes Village Hall, offering a variety of bedding plants, hanging baskets, annuals and perennials for sale.

All plants are either grown by local 'celebrity' gardener, Bill Lee, or donated by village residents.

Woodland wildplay

ON May 19, there will be a day of adventure and magic, skills and story at Coed Hills Rural Artspace.

Young people over six years are invited to follow the trail into the woods and discover secrets of the forest, amongst the trees, plants and the animals. See www.coedhills.co.uk for more information.

An audience with Yazz

1980s pop star Yazz is coming to Cowbridge.



IN the summer of 1988, singer Yazz (born Yasmin Evans) released her debut single, 'The Only Way Is Up'.

It went on to become the biggest-selling UK single of the year, following five weeks at the top of the charts.

Today, Yazz is a successful contemporary Christian recording artist.

She lives in Spain, but occasionally returns to the UK to tour and promote her albums and is now coming to Cowbridge!

An Audience With Yazz, called 'Fame2Freedom', will be held on Friday, May 18 at 7pm in Holy Cross Parish Church, Cowbridge.

The evening will have a personal atmosphere with an intimate, interview-style backdrop, interspersed with live

singing and contemporary visuals.

Yazz shares the story of her life journey to Christian faith with honesty and tenderness.

Following the performance, the audience is invited to stay on for refreshments and an opportunity to talk to Yazz in person.

Already, tickets have been sold as far afield as Bristol, so it looks set to be an evening to remember.

Tickets cost £3 and are available from: Sorrento, 67 High Street, Cowbridge; Noah's Place, 21 Westgate, Cowbridge; and the Holy Cross Parish Office, Church Street, Cowbridge.

For further enquiries please phone the Parish Office on 01446 772302.

This event has been organised by Cowbridge and District Churches Together.

Kate Hibbert



ADULT LEARNERS WEEK



'Adult Learning' means maximising your potential

ADULT learning is not just about going back to school – it provides

a fantastic opportunity to maximise potential, boosting earnings, teaching new skills for a new job, or just adding to existing qualifications.

The Further Education (FE) sector offers specific courses designed for adults to ease you back into education or progress people on to university.

ty, such as 'Return to Learn' and 'Access' courses.

There is also a range of courses accredited by universities, so you can get a higher education qualification and even a degree at college.

College staff are industry experts and experienced in the subjects that they teach.

Colleges such as Cardiff and Vale College also offer courses at sites from the heart of Barry to

Cardiff city centre and at adult and community learning centres across the region – whichever is closest to your work or home.

Online learning programmes and flexible study schemes ensure that the FE sector can meet your training needs.

A range of financial support is available for over 19s to cover the cost of a course, or even assist with extra costs such as books or kit, childcare or travel.

Learning support is also available to those who might have dyslexia or need more help with English and Maths.

There are also programmes to help those who are unemployed gain skills and knowledge to get back in to work, such as the Skillbuild scheme.

Working with Careers Wales, the ReAct programme can help people who have been made redundant. Cardiff and Vale College is one of the

newest and most exciting colleges in south Wales.

It offers the widest range of courses across Cardiff and the Vale, including a huge range of professional industry courses – and it's on your doorstep!

For more information on the wide range of courses CAVC has to offer call 030 30 30 10 10 or email info@cavc.ac.uk.

Tracy's decision is inspirational!

TRACY'S story is one of true inspiration and demonstrates how learning new skills really can change your life!

Tracy came to Pitman Training with the dream of being a medical secretary. After chatting to Leanne, one of the Pitman Training's friendly advisors, she felt more confident about making the career change and started learning the skills need to become a medical secretary.

Tracy really enjoyed the flexible training, and found it easy to fit it around family and work commitments. Tracy successfully achieved her Pitman Training Medical Secretarial

Diploma and immediately gained a new role as a medical receptionist at Spire Cardiff Hospital.

Her career has continued to progress and she is now a well-respected medical secretary. Recently, the national magazine Women's Own approached Tracy as they wanted to feature her success story in their magazine. Well done, Tracy, you are a real inspiration!

Tracy said: "Thanks again for everything, believing in me and making me believe in myself!"

For further information, please contact Melanie, Katie or Leanne at Pitman Training Cardiff on 02920 342020 or cardiff@pitman-training.net.

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VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

SUPPORTED by the Big Lottery Fund, the Vale Volunteer Bureau is launching a new project to give young people aged 16-24 extra support to jump start

their volunteering.

Holly Williams, who runs the project, will help new volunteers with application forms and support them on a one-to-one basis during initial stages.

She hopes "it will help young people

to get involved with positive volunteering they would otherwise miss out on."

Volunteers will be able to find out about the 800 plus volunteer roles in and around the Vale and also gain the free Agored Cymru qualification.

For more information on getting

involved, or any aspect of volunteering in the Vale, contact Holly Williams, Youth Volunteering Officer on 01446 421782 or holly@vvb.org.uk or pop into the VVB at 34 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HD.

CAREERS OPEN DAY

Date: Tuesday 15th May
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First Minister welcomes Japanese ambassador

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones welcomed the Japanese Ambassador to the UK to Wales for talks on the relationship between the two countries.

His Excellency Keiichi Hayashi is in Cardiff as part of a two-day visit to Wales. The First Minister said: "It is a pleasure to welcome the ambassador to Wales as the Welsh Government values greatly the longstanding and deep rooted business and

cultural links between Wales and Japan."

The Welsh Government will be leading a trade mission to Japan this coming November.

Wales is home to 50 Japanese-owned companies employing around 8,000 people.

The Welsh Government also has an office in Tokyo that helps Welsh companies looking to enter the Japanese market or expand their existing business.

ARE YOU 14-25??

Dish Out Dosh

The Vale Volunteer Bureau is looking for volunteers, to work as part of a team. The team will be responsible for Dishing Out Dosh to other youth led projects in the Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information contact Holly on 01446 421782, holly@vvb.org.uk, 34 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HD

GwirVol **VVB**

Volunteer in the Vale!

Aged 16-25?

Currently not in education or employment?

Want to improve your skills, get experience, meet new people and enhance your CV?

We have hundreds of volunteering opportunities available to suit your interests – including volunteering in sports, childcare, outdoor projects, fundraising, and much more.

Call in to the Vale Volunteer Bureau at 34 Holton Road, Barry or contact Holly on 01446 421782 or holly@vvb.org.uk

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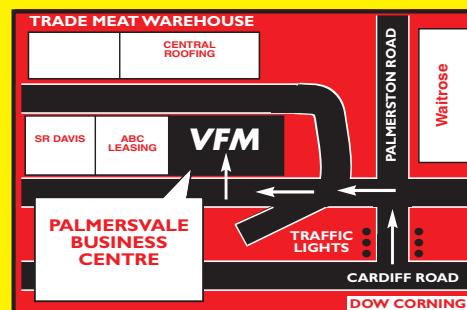


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IT'S QUIZ TIME FOR SCHOOLS!



ON May 1, the Rotary Club of Bridgend held its junior school quiz at Oldcastle Primary School, last year's winners.

Nine schools from the Bridgend area entered the competition and Oldcastle's school hall was packed with parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and teachers, who were there to support their teams.

Each team had four members; one from year-3, year-4, year-5 and year-6 respectively. There were four rounds for each member of a team, with questions ranging from maths, spelling, science, history, entertainment and general knowledge.

It was a very exciting and entertaining evening and all the youngsters thoroughly enjoyed them-

selves. The winners of the competition were Maes yr Haul Primary School, who will host next year's competition. Their team; Tomas Williams (year-3), Evan Davies (year-4), Iwan Coles (year-5) and Amaan Abbass (year-6) are pictured with Bridgend Rotary President, Roger

Grannum, receiving their prizes and the winner's cup.

The runners-up in the competition were Brynmelyn Primary School, represented by Lewis Barnes-Hunter (year-3), Gethin Page (year-4), Tom Painter (year-5) and Atharva Miskin (year-6).

Learn which courses could be up your street

BRIDGEND Library and Information Service will be running a stall at this year's Bridgend Learning Street Market from May 14-19.

The street market marks the start of Adult Learner's Week, bringing together a number of adult learning providers in one place to offer advice, guidance and help to those who may be considering some form of education, training, learning or up-skilling.

As well as Bridgend County Borough Council's libraries, the market will also include stalls for Adult Community Learning, Bridges into Work, Bridgend College, the

Workers' Educational Association, Careers Wales, Get IT On and a number of other various services.

With a huge range of courses, taster sessions and qualifications available, there is something on offer for everybody; ranging from help with basic skills in English, maths and computers, to a variety of GCSEs and A-levels.

There will also be opportunities to talk with friendly and experienced staff about which courses, qualifications and places of study are best suited to your needs.

For more information, contact Bridgend Library and Information Service at: blis@bridgend.gov.uk

Mum's tribute to her 'gentle' son

A mother has paid tribute to her "gentle and caring" son who was found dead close to the tracks outside Bridgend Railway Station.

Richard Llewellyn Lloyd, aged 23, of Penarth, was discovered at 8.21am on Saturday, May 5.

The police say he had

suffered injuries consistent with being hit by a train.

In a tribute, Mr Lloyd's mother, Christine Lloyd, said he would leave a huge gap in the lives of those who knew him:

"Richard was an inquisitive young man, who was considerate and keen to please those around him.

"He had a gentle per-

sona, and cared about global issues and the environment he lived in.

"He had a keen sense of humour, which would often amuse his family and friends.

"We are all devastated by the tragic nature of his death and are trying to come to terms with the loss. We will miss him immensely.

"We are appealing to anyone with any information, however minor, to contact the police."

Detective Inspector Mark Cleland, who is leading the investigation, said: "Enquiries are ongoing to establish the circumstances leading up to Mr Lloyd's death, including how he came to be on the tracks.

"We are particularly keen to trace his movements during the course of Friday night and Saturday morning."

Anyone with information is asked to contact British Transport Police on Freephone 0800 40 50 40 quoting background reference B3/WCA of 09/05/2012, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Pensioner is jailed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The vehicle in which the money was found, he said, was "old and battered."

Since being arrested, he had suffered from depression and sleepless nights.

"He no longer goes out, and he doesn't socialise."

Judge Philip Hughes said: "You acted as a courier on the instructions of a man you met in a pub.

"According to you, he was capable of violence and you claim to be frightened of him."

He said he had travelled from a motorway service area near Bristol to Bridgend with the

money and was well aware of what he was doing.

"You were paid £100 for your trouble in delivering the notes, but you were stopped and arrested by the police."

He said the amount of money involved was substantial and Jones had played a crucial role in a serious criminal enterprise.

"I accept you didn't tender or handle any of the money, but you knew what you were doing and took a risk for financial gain."

He said the jury clearly didn't believe Jones.

He said the case could only be dealt with by a prison sentence to punish him and deter others.

BIG BEACH CLEAN-UP COMES TO BRIDGEND

OGMORE-BY-SEA has been selected as one of the first locations in the UK to hold a Marks & Spencer (M&S) and Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Big Beach Clean-up on Friday, May 11.

Organisers are encouraging people from Bridgend and beyond to sign-up and become

beach cleaners for the day and help protect their seas.

The first ever M&S Big Beach Clean-up, organised by MCS, will take place with the aim of stopping common items such as fishing nets, ropes and bottle tops polluting our beaches and seas.

Youngsters can get involved with free beach activity packs, rock pool rambling and being on the lookout for unexpected items. Previous MCS beach cleans have

found unusual items such as bicycles, rubber ducks and superhero outfits.

It's hoped that thousands of people will roll-up their sleeves and clean 50 beaches across the UK between May 11-13.

M&S customers who register in advance at: www.mcsuk.org/foreverfish will receive a money-off at M&S voucher and some free M&S snacks on the day of the clean.

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Porthcawl joins British jubilee beacon tribute



BELOW RIGHT: A past beacon on the Tŷn at Kenfig Hill to celebrate the Coronation of King George V, June 22, 1911. (Note the extensive use of pit props illustrating the extent of coal mining in the area).

ABOVE: Pyle and Tythegston Silver Jubilee Committee with their beacon erected for the Silver Jubilee of King George, May 6, 1935.

Photographs supplied by **KEITH E MORGAN**

PORHCRAWL will be joining in on Monday, June 4, when more than 4,000 beacons are lit around Great Britain to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Starting at 10pm in the evening, the beacons will all be lit over a period of 30 minutes, with the Queen lighting the final one in central London at 10.30pm.

A total of 60 beacons are to be lit along Hadrian's Wall alone – one for each year of the Queen's reign.

In Porthcawl, there will be two beacons; one at Rhych Point at 10.20pm, and the other at Hutchwns Point, Lock's Common, at 10.26pm.

Interesting talk on orchids

PRESIDENT Lyn Griffiths opened the April meeting of Coity WI and welcomed new member Sue Thomas; Diane Morgan read the minutes of the last meeting and Ann Mutton reported on her visit to the spring council meeting at Barry.

Vi Bayliss was thanked for the excellent coffee morning she gave at her home for the ACCW, which was enjoyed by all the members.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Ray Bailey-Wood, who gave an illustrated talk on orchids. Although we are all familiar with commercially grown orchids, many of us were surprised to learn of the wide variety of wild orchids which grow in Wales, and our particular part of Wales, which seems to be especially well-blessed.

Mr Bailey-Wood also took time to answer questions and to give advice on growing and

propagating orchids at home. The evening was generally held to be a great success.

Members are reminded that the monthly meeting is to be held on May 23, and not on the last Wednesday of the month as this is our Resolutions meeting.

It will be followed by a fish-and-chip supper. May 30 will see our trip to Abergavenny.

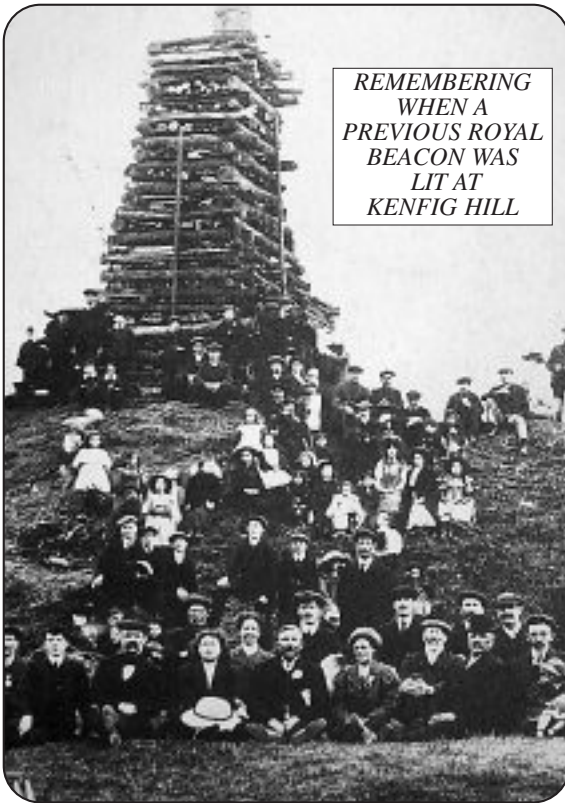
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Pencoed's twin news

PENCOED Town and District Twinning is organising a treasure hunt (by car) on Thursday, May 17, starting at 7pm from the car park to the rear of Pencoed Welfare Hall.

All are welcome. Contact Wendy McDonald, chairman, for further information on 01656 866533, or email eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com

Twelve members will be visiting our twin town, Plouzane, Brittany, in July and the highlight of the visit will be the Tall Ships' Exhibition in Brest Harbour.



REMEMBERING
WHEN A
PREVIOUS ROYAL
BEACON WAS
LIT AT
KENFIG HILL

'Compost' offer helps people in Bridgend area to go green!

RESIDENTS in Bridgend county borough are being urged to use their waste to help their garden – as part of International Compost Awareness Week, which runs from May 6-12.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) can supply affordable composting bins at a reduced rate to local householders, who can then produce their own nutrient-rich homemade compost for their garden.

Garden or 'green' organic waste, such as grass cuttings, leaves and twigs is biodegradable, and will decompose easily, and naturally in a compost bin.

Vegetable peelings, egg shells, shredded cardboard, tea bags and even the contents of your vacuum cleaner can also go into your compost bin.

A spokesperson for BCBC said: "Once you've invested in a compost bin there are no further costs and you can have rich, homemade compost to use on

your garden in as little as nine months.

"Anyone with outside space can compost. If you don't have a garden, remember that you can still recycle any vegetable peelings, fruit cores, teabags and egg shells by using your weekly food waste collection service."

For more information, and to order a bin, check your blue recycling handbook, or contact BCBC's recycling helpline on 01656 643439.



BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd celebrates the launch of the awards with Gareth Bray, chairman of the Bridgend Business Forum.

SEARCH IS LAUNCHED TO FIND THE BEST OF BRIDGEND BUSINESS

THE search has started to find the cream of Bridgend business, with the launch of the Bridgend Business of the Year Award 2012.

This is a brand new category of award which forms part of the South Wales Business Awards 2012, now in its fifth successful year.

BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd officially launched the awards at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, Bridgend.

More than 50 businesses attended the launch to find out more about the awards and how to enter.

Open until July 13, the awards celebrate innovation, acknowledge best practice and dedication, and recognise outstanding achievements in business.

All businesses in the south Wales region, including social enterprises and entrepreneurs who can demonstrate innovative and sustainable business ideas, are eligible to enter the awards.

Gareth Bray, chairman of the Bridgend Business Forum said: "We are extremely pleased to be working in partnership with the South Wales Business Awards this year, and we are very excited about this new category specifically targeting businesses based in Bridgend county borough."

"We have some excellent businesses

based in the county borough and I am thrilled that the Bridgend Business Forum is able to support this new accolade for businesses based in the area."

Mr Bray is one of the judging panel and added: "We are looking for a local business which not only meets the criteria specified for this award, but also a business which can demonstrate that it has that extra something, or shows that it has gone the extra mile to achieve its goals."

The overall winner of the Bridgend Business of the Year Award 2012 will receive free publicity, a trophy and certificate, a bottle of champagne and two free places at the Bridgend

Business Forum Christmas lunch, taking place on December 14.

Wesley Skene, founder of the South Wales Business Awards, said:

"Since our launch in 2008, the aim of the awards has been to showcase the outstanding talent that is operating in the Welsh business community and celebrate the successes of these businesses."

The South Wales Business Awards 2012 ceremony will take place on Friday September 21 at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan.

To enter the Bridgend Business of the Year Award 2012 visit: www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk

New chairman is elected at SHOUT forum



Flashback: Gary Victor greeting First Minister Carwyn Jones on a previous visit to Porthcawl SHOUT Forum.

THE second AGM of Porthcawl SHOUT Forum took place on Friday, May 4, at Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

Des Rees retired from the chair and was congratulated for his consistently strong leadership throughout his period in office. Gary Victor was duly elected as the new chairman and Mr Rees was elected as Porthcawl SHOUT's first honorary

president.

Mrs Kathryn Richards was re-elected as treasurer and Clive Mort was also re-elected as secretary. Lindsay Morgan and Jeff Saunders continue as members of the executive committee.

Local photographer Keith E Morgan took the above picture of Gary Victor greeting First Minister Carwyn Jones on an earlier visit to Porthcawl SHOUT Forum. **CM**

Porthcawl launches its 'song for the jubilee'

THE MAYOR of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, and her consort Bill Stubbs, fulfilled her last official engagement of her year in office when Porthcawl's Diamond Jubilee song was formally launched in Trinity Church, Porthcawl, on Monday, May 7.

Lindsay Morgan, the chairman of the Porthcawl Queen's Diamond Jubilee events team, introduced the Porthcawl Choral Society and their musical director, Barrie Wilson.

The Porthcawl Jubilee song, which is entitled 'A Jubilee Celebration', was written and arranged by Mr Wilson.

Following some inspiring introductory choral pieces, the song was performed by the choral society to an appreciative audience.

The song has an air of Gilbert and Sullivan about it and the audience were able to join in the chorus with enthusiasm and gusto!

Following the first public performance of the new song, Coun Stubbs, presented Barrie Wilson with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

She then went on to present jubilee medals to representatives of the organisations who are partnering the Porthcawl Queen's Diamond Jubilee events team in the various events that are planned for the town.

Mrs Jan Bolland was the first to receive a medal on behalf of the Porthcawl Choral Society.

The Mayor then went on to present medals to: Clive Mort, the press officer of the Porthcawl

Report and photographs by **KEITH E MORGAN**



ABOVE: Coun Barbara Stubbs, receiving a donation of £100 from Lindsay Morgan toward her civic charity fund.



Coun Stubbs, presenting a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to John Firniss of Porthcawl RFC.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee events team; Paul Fielding, president of Porthcawl & District Chamber of Trade; Jean Schofield and Howard John of Porthcawl Rotary, and John Firniss of Porthcawl Rugby Football Club.

As a conclusion to the presentations, Lindsay Morgan handed over, on behalf of the Porthcawl Queen's Jubilee events team, a cheque for £100 to the Mayor for her Civic Fund.

In her response and closing address, the Mayor thanked Lindsay Morgan for the generous contribution to her Civic Fund.

She then went on to compliment Barrie Wilson for producing such an inspirational Porthcawl Jubilee Song – one that was worthy of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, – and the Porthcawl Choral Society for their fine rendition.



Porthcawl Choral Society and their musical director, Barrie Wilson.

'I want to tell you a story' says Madeleine Moon MP

IT was storytime with a difference at Cornelly Primary School last week, when Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon popped in to read to the pupils.

She reports: "What a delight for a Friday afternoon to visit Cornelly school and be part of their Story Café idea. I read to the children in the reception class a much-loved children's book; *The Treasure Sock*.

"The story tells about a little girl collecting treasures on the way home from school. I had collected all of the weird items in the story and pulled them out of my stripy sock as I read to the children.

"The children were excited and laughing at the odd collection of items and so were parents who had joined their children.

"It brought back wonderful memories of reading this book to my own son many years ago. After the story, the children and parents designed a treasure sock of their own, which was great fun."

The Story Café idea has been running for months at Cornelly Primary School, with the aim of encouraging children and parents to join in the enjoyable learning process of reading together in school and at home.

Reading to young children regularly is one of the most important things we can do to help them develop and make books a vital part of their lives.

After the story, the MP joined in the Fairtrade coffee and cake afternoon in the school and chatted with everyone.

Proceeds will be donated to the Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff.

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Madeleine Moon MP and the pupils she read to at Cornelly Primary School.



CAROLINE SCOOPS A CITIZENSHIP HONOUR!

CAROLINE TRANTER, Barclays branch manager in Porthcawl, has scooped a Barclays Citizenship award, in recognition of her work and support for the local community across the surrounding area.

The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and dedication of people, who inspire and motivate their colleagues around them to get involved.

Dave Rose, Barclays area director said: "It's important to Barclays that we encourage and inspire our employees to support the causes that they care about the most."

"Caroline is a great example to us all, fundraising, volunteering and dedicating much of her time to local worthy causes and someone we're really proud of."

Caroline said: "Being part of the community not only makes you feel better, but it also gives

you the opportunity to make new contacts and build relationships with people who may never come into your branch."

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon presented Caroline with her award.

Caroline will now be put forward for a Barclays Chairman's Award, competing against other Barclays employees from across the globe at a judging event to be held in June.

Children in Pontycymer celebrate a first in Wales

PUPILS at Pontycymer Nursery are celebrating the news that they have become the first nursery in Wales to be awarded the Healthy Schools National Quality Award.

The nursery is set to be presented with a plaque to mark the occasion.

Part of the Welsh Government's Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes, Pontycymer Nursery was selected as one of the pilot schools for the initiative in 2001.

Since then, the school has developed seven health topics covering food and fitness, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, personal development and relationships, substance use and misuse, safety and hygiene and the environment.

Pupils, teachers and staff at Pontycymer Nursery have worked together to find ways in which the school can embrace these themes and incorporate them into every aspect of school life, including curriculum development and community involvement.

The quality award assessor's report stated: "The healthy school work is embedded in everything that is done at Pontycymer Nursery, with all sectors of the school community committed to its aims."

Screening service says 'thank you'

A HUGE 'thank You' has been issued by Breast Test Wales to the community of Maesteg for supporting its mobile visit to the area.

The unit, which has been based at Llynfi Road car park since February, will be moving out on May 15.

Dafydd Snelling, a screening engagement specialist with the NHS service, said: "We are very grateful to Llynfi Road Car Park for allowing us to site our mobile unit within their car park."

"Their support is invaluable in ensuring that we can take our service into the heart of the community, making it as accessible as possible to local women."

For further information visit: www.screeningserVICES.org.uk/btw.

Local MP drops in to Bridgend Foodbank



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon MP donates her latest questionnaire cheque to the Bridgend Foodbank.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon met volunteers at Bridgend Foodbank at the end of their session at Nolton Street to hand over another cheque.

She said: "I know things are bad, with more than 3,000 families needing help from the foodbank, and this is a way in which I can help."

"I am completing as many questionnaires as I can to earn money to pass onto charities and I have another cheque for the foodbank to help buy more supplies for our communities."

Donations can be made at local supermarkets. The food is collected

for distribution to their six foodbank centres across the borough, which are: Bridgend Centre: 79A Nolton Street, Bridgend; Cornelly Centre: Cornelly Community Church, 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cornelly; Bettws Road, Bettws; Porthcawl Centre: Griffin Park Community Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl; Pontycymer Centre: Tabernacle Chapel, Meadow Street, Pontycymer; and Maesteg Centre: Peniel Evangelical Church, Station Street, Maesteg.

If you can help with donating food or volunteering you can contact the Foodbank at Nolton Street on 01656 858713, or email: bridgendfoodbank@aol.co.uk.

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'Wanted' continued next page

Family Notices

MORGAN Susan Margaret

Suddenly on May 2 at Princes of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Sue of Cowbridge (nee Llewellyn of Barry), beloved wife of Keith, devoted mother of Sian, dear mother-in-law of Jason.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Tuesday May 15, service 10.45am at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 12 noon.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Parkinsons Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

The Hair Studio Llantwit Major

Jacqui would like to thank all her clients and staff for their patience, understanding and kind words of support over this past year, during her mum's illness and recent passing. It has been very much appreciated.

Situations Vacant

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SNELL Florence

14.12.1944 - 05.05.2012

It is with regret and deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Florence who will be greatly missed by all her family and friends around the world.

Husband Gerry, son Neil, daughter-in-law Leah, grand-daughter Scarlett, brothers Ralph, Norman and Chuckie, step-children Simon and Susan, their partners Sarah and Keith and step-grandchildren Alex, Chloe, William and Jennifer.

No flowers please, but should you wish to make a donation to the charity that Florence supported all her life, please make cheques payable to Dr Graham's Homes, c/o The Treasurer, 101 Caitside, Edinburgh. EH10 7HR.

Please contact the family for funeral details on 01446 713196.

HARTLEY Beryl

Peacefully, on May 1 at Holme Tower after a long illness borne with great fortitude and strength, Beryl aged 88 years (formerly of Cartref Potchert) devoted wife of the late Peter, much loved and loving mother of Linda and Tracy, cherished and adored by all her family and her dearest friend Joyce.

Resting at A G Adams, Barry until the service at All Saints Church on Friday, May 18 at 11.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations in memory of Beryl can be made to Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Tower, Penarth.

SULLIVAN Catherine Minnie

Peacefully, on April 27 at Llandough Hospital, in her 92nd year, Kate of Rhoose. Beloved wife of the late Ron, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday May 14, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

FREDERICK Stan

The family of the late Stan Frederick would like to thank all who attended his Funeral Service and for all the well wishes and messages of condolences received, they have greatly helped us at this sad time.

'MUD' PHILLIPS

Our brave and beautiful daughter passed away peacefully at home on 6th May 2012 age 23. She is loved and missed by her brothers, sisters, family, friends and carers - too many to list - but who have all been inspired by her love, humour, character and courage.

Thank you for being our girl.

Kate Stewart Phillips & Julian Phillips

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Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12

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To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 43 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
DIVERSION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 18th day of April 2012. The effect of the Order will be to divert the route of the public footpath from that described in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 7th day of June 2012. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 10th day of May 2012

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 39 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 18th day of April 2012. The effect of the Order will be to extinguish the route of the public footpath as described in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

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Dated this 10th day of May 2012

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

YR EISTEDDFOD - BETH I DDISGWYL?

YMHEN pedwar mis fe fydd Bro Morgannwg yn croesawu un o wyliau celfyddydol mwyaf y byd sef yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Mae pawb wedi clywed am yr 'Eisteddfod', ond beth yn union a wyddom am Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru a beth fedrwn ei ddisgwyl pan fydd yr Wyl yn ymweld â'r ardal?

Mae Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru yn un o wyliau mawr y byd sy'n denu dros 150,000 o ymwelwyr yn flynyddol. Mae'r Eisteddfod yn wyl deithiol sy'n eiddo i bobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru, ac mae hyn yn rhan fawr o'i hapel.

Mae'n ymweld ag ardaloedd yng ngogledd a de Cymru bob yn ail, ac mae cynnal yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn hwb mawr i unrhyw ardal.

Mae'n gyfle gwych i bobl leol fod yn rhan o weithgareddau diwylliannol yn eu hardal ac mae hefyd yn gyfle gwych i godi profil yr ardal fel mangre ar gyfer ymwelwyr.

Yn ychwanegol, mae'r effaith economaidd ar ardal yn enfawr, gyda'r Eisteddfod yn cyfrannu rhwng £6-8 milwn i'r economi leol yn ystod yr wythnos.

Mi fydd safle hen Faes Awyr Llandow yn cael ei drawsnewid yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod (Awst 4-11) yn bair celfyddydol gyda'r maes ei hun yn cymryd safle 35 erw a'r meysydd parcio a'r meysydd carafanau a gwersylla swyddogol wedi eu lleoli cyfagos.

Prif ffocws y maes yw'r Pafiliwn - sef pabell fawr binc, sydd yn eistedd 2,000, a lleoli'r yng nghanol y Maes.

Yn ystod y dydd dyma yw cartref pob math o gystadlaethau o gorau i berfformiadau offerynnol i'r prif seremonïau llenyddol ac yn ystod y nos fe fydd y pafiliwn yn cael ei drawsnewid yn neuadd gyngerdd gyda pherfformiadau o'r radd eithaf.

Ymhlith yr artistiaid eleni bydd Only Boys Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Karl Jenkins, Dennis O'Neill, Rebecca Evans, Dafydd Iwan a Caryl Parry Jones.

Ychwanegwch Is Bafiliwnau a dros 300 o stondinau yn cynnig gweithgareddau a perfformiadau llenyddol,

gwyddoniaeth, dawns, theatr, arddangosfa celfyddydau gwledol, perfformiadau a gweithgareddau di-ri i'r plant a llwyfan perfformio yn cynnwys cerddoriaeth o bob math.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn gymysgedd eclectig o ddiwylliant, cerddoriaeth, celfyddyd a phob math o weithgareddau ar gyfer pobl o bob oed, yn sicr bydd rhywbeth at ddant pawb ar y Maes.

Only Boys Aloud, yn Llwyddo Dros Brydain
COFIWCH ddefnyddio eich pleidlais nos Sadwrn yma i bleidleisio dros Only Boys Aloud yn rownd derfynol rhaglen Britain's Got Talent!

Mae'r côr o fechgyn 14-19 oed o'r Cymoedd, a gredyd yn arbennig ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Blaenau Gwent a Blaenau'r Cymoedd, wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol yn ystod y gyfres, a'r pedwar beirniad wedi mopio gyda'u perfformiadau yn y rownd gychwynnol ac yn y rownd gyn-derfynol dros y penwythnos.

Meddai Elfed Roberts, Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, "Rwy'n sicr ein bod i gyd wedi mwynhau perfformiad gwefreiddiol Only Boys Aloud dros y penwythnos, a braf yw gweld bod nifer fawr o'u cefnogwyr wedi mynd ati i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd agoriadol yn yr Eisteddfod eleni ers eu llwyddiant.

Rydym yn annog pawb i gefnogi'r bechgyn yn y rownd derfynol nos Sadwrn, a gobeithio y byddan nhw'n ddo i'r brig yn y gystadlaethau.

"Mae'r Eisteddfod yn hynod falch o'n cysylltiad ni gydag Only Boys Aloud, a'n bod ni wedi bod yn rhan o gychwyn y prosiect gan roi'u llwyfan cyntaf iddyn nhw ddwy flynedd yn ôl. "Mae'r côr wedi mynd o nerth i nerth ers hynny, ac yn ddi-os, maen nhw'n rhan o waddol diwylliannol a chymunedol yr Eisteddfod yn y de ddwyrain. Pob llwyddiant iddyn nhw nos Sadwrn."

Mae Cymdeithas Adeiladu'r Principality yn cefnogi'r côr, ac meddai Pat Ashman, Rheolwr Nawdd a Digwyddiadau'r cwmni: "Mae'r Principality wedi cefnogi Only Boys Aloud ers y cychwyn a rydan ni falch iawn o llwyddiant y bechgyn yn cyrraedd y rownd derfynol yn Britain's



Got Talent.

"Mae hyn nid yn unig yn hwb iddyn nhw fel côr ond i Gymru gyfan, ac yn lwyfan bendigedig i ganu corawl yng Nghymru, sydd hefyd yn bwysig i ni fel cwmni. "Rydym yn nodi cystadlaethau corawl yr Eisteddfod ers blynyddoedd, ac mae'r cyfle i weld côr ifanc o fechgyn o'r cymoedd - a gredyd ar gyfer Eisteddfod 2010 - ar un o'r rhaglenni teledu mwyaf poblogaidd yn brofiad arbennig.

"Pob llwyddiant iddyn nhw nos Sadwrn, a rydan ni hefyd yn edrych ymlaen i nodi cyngerdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod eleni, lle bydd y bechgyn yn llenwi'r llwyfan yn Llandow."

Ewch i: www.eisteddfod.org.uk i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd agoriadol neu ffoniwch y llinell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

The Vale Eisteddfod - what to expect?

IN four months' time, the Vale will host one of the world's greatest cultural festivals, the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

We've all heard the word 'Eisteddfod', but how much do we know about the National Eisteddfod of Wales and what we can expect when it comes to the Vale?

The National Eisteddfod of Wales is one of the great festivals of the world, attracting more than 150,000 visitors every year.

The Eisteddfod is a travelling festival which belongs to the people of Wales, wherever they live, and this is an integral part of its appeal.

The festival visits areas in north and south Wales alternately, and hosting the National Eisteddfod is a great boost for any area.

It's an ideal opportunity to take part in cultural activities in your area, and it's also a great opportunity to promote the region as a tourist destination.

The economic effect is huge, with the Eisteddfod contributing between £6-8 million to the local economy during the week.

Between August 4-11, the site of the Llandow Airfield will be trans-

formed into a cultural mecca with the main festival site itself, or 'Maes', taking over a 35-acre site with car parking, and the official caravan and camping site situated nearby.

The main focal point of the Eisteddfod site will be the 2,000 seater pavilion. This huge pink marquee is the venue where, during the day, the main competitions and ceremonies are held.

In the evening, the Pavilion is transformed into a world-class concert venue. Performers this year will include Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Karl Jenkins, Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill, Dafydd Iwan and Caryl Parry Jones to name only a few.

Add to that satellite pavilions which include a literature pavilion, theatre and dance pavilion, performance stages, contemporary art exhibition, open air performance stages featuring all sorts of music, performances and activities of all kinds for children, and more than 300 trade stands, the National Eisteddfod is a vibrant festival, which has something for everyone - whatever your age.

Only Boys Aloud shine on Britain's Got Talent

REMEMBER to use your vote on Saturday night to support Only Boys Aloud in the final of Britain's Got Talent!

The 140-strong male voice choir aged 14-19 from the Valleys were created especially for the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys National Eisteddfod opening concert in 2010.

They have been a great success during the series, and the four judges have been impressed with their performances, both in the first round and in the semi-final over the weekend.

Elfed Roberts, National Eisteddfod Chief Executive, said: "I'm sure we've all enjoyed the rousing performances by Only Boys Aloud over the weekend, and we are pleased to see that many of their supporters have purchased tickets for this year's Eisteddfod opening concert since their success.

"We're encouraging everyone to support the boys in the final this weekend, and hope that they'll be successful in the competition.

"The Eisteddfod is very proud of our link with Only Boys Aloud, and that we've been involved since the beginning of the project, and gave them their first opportunity to perform two years ago.

"Good luck to them on Saturday." The Principality Building Society are great supporters of the choir, and Pat Ashman, the company's sponsorship and events manager said: "The Principality has supported Only Boys Aloud since the start, and we are delighted with their success in reaching the final of Britain's Got Talent.

"This is not only a boost to them as a choir but to Wales as a whole, and is a wonderful stage for choral singing in Wales, which is also important to us as a company.

"We've been sponsoring the Eisteddfod choral competitions for a number of years, and the opportunity to see a choir of young boys from the Valleys on one of the most popular programmes on television is great.

Good luck to them on Saturday, and we're also looking forward to sponsoring the opening concert at the Eisteddfod this year, where the boys will shine on the Pavilion stage."

Go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk to buy tickets for the opening concert or ring the tickleline on 0845 4090 800.

MAX BOYCE

Penarth Appeal Committee will be hosting a very special concert at the Paget Rooms in Penarth on May 26, when Max Boyce will be performing a concert to raise funds for the Eisteddfod.

The concert promises to be a 'night to remember' as Caryl Parry Jones will also be appearing, alongside rising stars Greta and Miriam Isaac from Cowbridge.

Tickets are priced at £25 and available from Foxy's Deli in Penarth.

Welsh phrase of the week, Ymadrodd yr wythnos:

'BETH sy'n digwydd?' (Beth scene dig-with?), which means: 'What's happening?'
SIONED EDWARDS

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00336/FUL Refurbishment and Extension of single residential dwelling house and integral garage Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian Affecting the Llanblethian
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00377/FUL The construction of a single storey extension to the existing 6th Form study area and Cafeteria Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Conservation Area Consent /Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00337/CAC Refurbishment and extension of single residential dwelling house and integral garage including demolition and rebuilding of boundary wall Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanblethian
Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00342/LBC The proposed installation is for 1 No. 200mm squared (200mm x 200mm) communications antenna pole mounted to the South West elevation of the clock tower. A single data cable will be laid on the roof in a robber sheath and then clipped to the wall to the point of entry in the building. There is an internal cable run to the comms cabinet in the building. The antenna and pole will be painted dark red to match the background colour of the clock tower, thus making it as invisible as possible. The drawings that accompany this application include a photo montage showing how the building will look Penarth Library, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00346/LBC Retrospective application for emergency structural repairs to front bay and first and second floors including replacement bay window 41, High Street, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00397/LBC Minor alterations to rationalise the internal layout of the entrance and utility areas to the property. Downs Farm, Sully Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00367/RG3 A new educational development combining St. Cyres School with the adjacent two SEN schools of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and the nearby Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry. External works for sports education. A new Toucan Crossing and traffic calming measures will control Sully Road traffic either side of the existing public footpath and the new vehicular access point. The existing main entrance along St. Cyres Road will be retained for pedestrian access at the start and end of the school day and for infrequent emergency access and deliveries (Minute number 1979 May 2002) St. Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad:	
Departure from Development Plan / Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00228/OUT Agricultural workers dwelling New Farm, Port Road, Barry
Location/Lleoliad:	
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2012/00367/RG3 A new educational development combining St. Cyres School with the adjacent two SEN schools of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and the nearby Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry. External works for sports education. A new Toucan Crossing and traffic calming measures will control Sully Road traffic either side of the existing public footpath and the new vehicular access point. The existing main entrance along St. Cyres Road will be retained for pedestrian access at the start and end of the school day and for infrequent emergency access and deliveries (Minute number 1979 May 2002) St. Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad:	
Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	
Dated: 10th May, 2012 Rob Thomas Head of Planning and Transportation The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT	Dyddiedig: 10 Mai, 2012 Rob Thomas Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT



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VOLUNTEERS ARE GIVEN A KICK-START INTO SPORTS COACHING

TWO volunteers from the Gibbonsdown area of Barry have been given a kick-start into sports coaching thanks to a special project, and are now leading free sports sessions for children in the local community.

Towards the end of last year, Mark Nickerson and Gareth Baynham were offered the chance to go on a 'Community Sports Leader Award' course over several weeks after the Vale Council's sports

and play development team joined forces with the Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First Partnership.

Mark and Gareth are now putting the skills that they learned into practice at weekly sports sessions at Iolo Park in Gibbonsdown every Wednesday between 5pm and 6.30pm.

The sessions are completely free and are aimed at children aged four to 14, with the sports on offer including football, cricket, basketball, and more.

Ben Williams, the Vale Council's active young people co-ordinator said:



Mark Nickerson (pictured) and Gareth Baynham are running free sports sessions at Iolo Park in the Gibbonsdown area of Barry for local children.

"Mark and Gareth are perfect examples of volunteers wanting to make a difference in their local community. Thanks to the success of this initiative in Gibbonsdown we are also hoping for similar interest from further

like-minded volunteers from other wards in Barry who would like to get into sports coaching."

Rachel Davies, the community development officer for Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First, said: "The project

is great for getting children of all ages playing together in this fantastic new park and teaching them new skills. We were very keen to get weekly provisions in the park to utilise the facilities and equipment.

"Mark and Gareth are great with the kids and we really hope to spin this out into other areas in the community in the future."

If you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved, call Rachel Davies on 01446 732406.

For further ideas of how all ages can get active in the Vale of Glamorgan, go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay or follow the council's sports and play development team on Twitter @valesportsandplay.

Bombettes deliver a try scoring rout

BARRY Bombettes played against a spirited Rugby Lionesses touring team from Warwickshire.

From a Lioness' scrum, the Barry pack drove their counterparts backwards allowing Bannister at No 9 to feed her backs. Fullback Hill came into the line, breaking through to score the first home try, duly converted by K Jones.

K Jones took a quick tap to power over for the second try which she converted, and this set off at speed, passing winger Dixon, who was brought down with the try line in sight.

Following increased pressure Garner-Joel burst through the Lioness' defence on their 22 to power over for her first try of the season.

The Lionesses continued to battle hard, but were struggling against the Barry pack. The Lioness No 9 went off with a minor shoulder injury, resulting in Barry winger Nation sportingly swapping sides, allowing Rugby to field 15 players, B Jones replacing her on the wing.

From a good attacking position on the blind side, a swift exchange of passes between Bannister and K Jones resulted in Bannister scoring her first try of the season.

K Jones then took a quick tap and forged forward.

She was ably supported by the tireless Richards who knocked back the would-be tacklers, and from the resultant pressure deep in the away 22, Captain Boffy drove forward to score her first try of the season.

With the Bombettes spirits high they started the second half perfectly. Garner-Joel stormed through some lacklustre tackling to sprint to score her second try; K Jones converted.

Richards, loving the freedom in the loose, burst forward before feeding Beare, who sprinted around the defence to score under the posts. Second row J Jones then showed her speed by also bursting down the right wing to score her first try.

K Jones then kicked behind the Rugby defence, though a speedy defender looked to have prevented a further score; she followed up and touched down as the

defender couldn't gather the ball, Bannister showed her debut kicking boots by successfully converting two kicks from in front of the posts.

Dixon sportingly swapped positions and teams with Nation and played wing for the Lionesses making several try saving tackles on her team mates.

From a Barry scrum deep in the Rugby 22, No 8 Cole powered forward crossing the line with the defence helpless, K Jones and Bannister added another two tries bringing the final score to 22-0.

The eight different try scorers illustrated the team work this season.

Team: Northcott, Phillips, Richards, Cahill, J Jones, Garner-Joel, Cole, (c) Boffy, Bannister, K Jones, Nation, Yapp, Williams, Dixon, Hill, Beare, Horne and B Jones.

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Volvo V60 travels through life

SLOGANS are a useful way of remembering organisations.

For instance, hearing the phrase 'time well spent' makes me think of the National Trust, while 'the car in front' pushes Toyota into your mind.

Car manufacturers do love these phrases: BMW 'the ultimate driving machine' and Peugeot 'the drive of your life', for example. In fact, life plays an important part in such slogans as Volvo has chosen to also embrace it with 'Volvo. for life'.

Driving the Volvo V60 D3 Ocean Race estate certainly does handle all aspects of life, whether it be the arduous motorway commute, trips to the tip or much more enjoyable family times.

As you might expect, safety is at the forefront of this vehicle. There's the Blis (blind spot) safety alert on the wing mirrors that's unavailable on most cars. This is triggered when the Volvo travels at a reasonable speed and there is a hidden car that might have escaped the driver's attention.

Dash past in the outside lane, and it rarely notices other vehicles on its left, unless they are high sided lorries.

If an obstacle appears that the car doesn't expect, a red light on the dash in front of the driver flashes to the accompaniment of a blaring siren, which is utterly frightening and I feel, uncalled for.

Where I live, there are some traffic lights on a right hand bend and as you travel past, the Volvo's radar senses them and all hell breaks loose. Thank goodness no passengers of a sensitive disposition were travelling with me on that occasion. The same can happen if a car pushes its way in front of the Volvo, which has greater value.

Refreshingly, cruise control doesn't cancel out when changing gear as is usually the way in most other cars.

Volvo claims that up to 90 per cent of accidents are caused by distraction, and that half of all drivers hitting a car from behind do not brake at all.

To combat this, the V60 is equipped with a useful function that measures the distance of the car in front, keeping the Swede a safe



distance behind. The gap can be increased or decreased by the driver. This works especially well for motorway cruising, automatically and smoothly braking and accelerating as required.

However, this function does cancel out at speeds under 20 mph or so, as it is linked to the cruise control. This really could do with improving, because accidents do occur while driving at low speeds, too.

I can see how this function could be used to prevent many low speed collisions, if only it worked at such speeds.

In torrential rain the radar gets blocked, cancelling out the cruise control.

A well-insulated cabin ensures that there is only a hint of a rattle from the two-litre diesel unit on start up and from then on you don't notice.

It's fantastically fuel efficient, too – around 700 miles on its 67.5 litre tank. Auto stop-start aids this frugality, although like its driver, this function gets bored after five minutes and restarts.

How do I know this? I have been stuck in recurring roadworks for the past week that regularly exceed five minutes and continue for more like 20 minutes. When finally out of the jams, the V60 will confidently travel at speed, providing great enjoyment on clear country lanes.

It is also fitted with Volvo's e-Drive mode, which further helps economy. The six-speed box is pleasing to use, although on occasions it can be indecisive when choosing second gear.

The sat nav alerts the driver to the fact they're entering the London congestion charge zone, but this needs updating as it is free on weekends or public holidays.

The V60 is a comfortable executive express, equipped with quickclear windscreen demisters and heated front seats.

All the usual luxuries are included, such as electric windows and air con. The dashboard is similar to that of an Alfa Romeo because it is angled in the driver's favour, much to my wife's disappointment. The radio reception could be stronger.

Externally, the V60 is a curvaceous beauty – Volvo has taken the old V60 and rounded off the edges with great success, producing a very fashionable and sought-after cool estate car.

However, there are some blind spots, making it feel a little cumbersome on occasions, mainly when manoeuvring and reversing, but its safety systems help with this.

Unlocking the car is simple – as long as the driver has the key on them. The Volvo intelligently recognises this fact and all you have to do is place a hand on a door handle for it to open. This is a much appreciated feature during April showers, as it means you get in the car very quickly without the usual fuff associated with car keys.

If the driver has the key on them there's no need to insert the key in the dash to start the car. Instead just put your feet on the clutch and brake and push the start button and it fires into life.

There isn't a traditional handbrake; instead a switch on the right of the dash – you just push it down to unlock or engage, but there is a slight delay. The wing mirrors automatically fold when it's locked.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Volvo is best known for large and practical estates and the V60 remains the core model for the manufacturer – a modern version of its archetypal load carrier."

As you would expect the V60 is a splendid driver's car loaded with safety features. New price range: £35,400.

Top speed: 137mph.

0-60mph: 8.9secs.

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Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz

TIM SANDERS

Penarth Town under-15s savour Cup glory

Both Penarth Town and Cogan B under-15s approached the cup final in high expectation, lying second and third respectively in the league with games in hand on the leaders.

Penarth were bringing a 21-match unbeaten record to Jenner Park and started the better, dominating the midfield and looking to punish Cogan's early nerves. After eight minutes, Penarth pounced as Brad Rosser took advantage of the hesitant Cogan defence and slipped the ball past the exposed keeper.

Cogan started to suffocate the Penarth midfield who, in turn, misplaced passes, but Penarth's resolute defence held out for a 1 – 0 half time lead.

Tactical changes were made at half-time and Caynon Bowen almost put Keeling through. Just a minute later, he had the Cogan midfield backtracking as he dribbled from the right, cut in and beat two defenders, and shot from 25 yards – the ball screaming into the top left hand corner.

Cogan, desperate to get back into the game with just 20 minutes remaining, upped the tempo once again and tried hard to close down ball to the Penarth chan-

nels. This was calmly dealt with by Oscar Kempton, James Squire Wood and Rowlands, who manfully played the full game with two broken fingers.

With 10 minutes remaining the contest was effectively over when Cogan succumbed to patient but purposeful Penarth play that led to a barrage of pressure.

Thomas put a great ball through with Murphy overpowering two defenders to slot the ball home.

Cogan kept battling right to the final whistle but outstanding defending in the last 10 minutes

by Jack Davies and Tom Farmer saw Penarth deservedly win the cup final 3 – 0 in what was a thoroughly entertaining match, played in great spirit by two worthy finalists.

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Silver, full body kit, 80,000 miles
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03 SMART City Pulse Auto
in black, low running costs + £30 road tax
£2,995



08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 SRi 3-dr
In black, air con, 55,000 miles
£5,995



CITROEN C4 VTR Coupe 1.6 HDi
in light met blue, 55,000 miles, diesel at
£4,995



55 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique S
In burnt orange, air con, 59,000 miles
£3,995



06 JAGUAR XK (New model)
Black with cream leather, 49,000 miles
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07 VW Golf 2.0TDi (170) 5-dr. In black, 50,000 mile diesel at . . . £8,995
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06 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 Diesel Convertible Sport. In met blue with cream leather, 53,000 miles . . . £6,795
03 BMW 325 2.5Ci M-Sport Convertible Auto. Silver, 79,270 miles . . . £6,495
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04 MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Avantgarde Auto. In black with leather, 67,000 miles, 1 owner . . . £5,995
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02 AUDI TT (180). In red with black leather, 87,000 miles, superb example . . . £5,995
05 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 Premium In black with black leather, 78,000 miles, 2 owners . . . £4,995
05 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.3 CDTi Sport. In ice blue, 65,000 mile diesel convertible . . . £4,995
03 MINI Cooper Automatic. In velvet red with black roof, chilli pack, 70,000 miles . . . £4,995
51 MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto. In silver with black leather, 56,000 mile convertible at . . . £4,995
01 MERCEDES ML 430 Auto. In silver with black leather, 68,000 miles, LPG gas conversion . . . £4,995
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- 09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club 5-dr Automatic.** In silver, 46,000 miles, a/c, etc . . . £5,995
55 TOYOTA Corolla CLR 2.0 Diesel 5-dr. In platinum metallic, 62,000 miles . . . £5,995
07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Design 3-dr. In Tonic silver, 47,000 miles, 1 owner . . . £5,495

- 06 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 Colour 5-dr.** In silver, 41,000 miles, 1 local owner . . . £5,495
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56 PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr Auto. In black, 56,000 miles, alloys etc. . . £4,495
06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Privilege 5-dr. In red, 44,000 miles, high specification . . . £4,495
06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr. In met silver, alloys, air con etc. . . £4,495
55 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 Diesel SE Estate. In met blue, 79,000 miles, pan roof etc . . . £4,495
54 MAZDA 6 2.0 Diesel TS2 Estate. In silver, 80,000 miles, 2 owners . . . £3,995
05 CITROEN C4 1.4 SXi 5-dr. In ice blue, 49,000 miles, 1 owner . . . £3,495
55 FORD Focus 1.6LX Auto 5-dr. In blue, fantastic value at . . . £3,495
54 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr. In black, 62,000 miles . . . £3,495
53 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5-dr. In platinum, 34,000 miles, very desirable at . . . £3,295
53 FORD Fusion 3. In red, 54,000 miles, 2 owners, A/C, alloys etc. . . £2,995
07 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6SX 5-dr. In silver, 43,000 miles, FSH . . . £3,295
06 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 Exclusive. In silver, 75,000 miles, 2 owners . . . £2,995
04 RENAULT Scenic 2.0 Privilege. In met red, 60,000 miles, pan roof, etc . . . £2,995
03 MERCEDES A140 Classic. In met blue, 64,000 miles, fantastic value . . . £2,995
03 SMART City Pulse Auto. In black, low running costs + £30 road tax . . . £2,995
51 SMART Passion 600 Auto (Left Hand Drive). In red/silver, 52,000 miles . . . £2,495
01 MAZDA Premacy 1.8 Atlantis. In met-blue, 43,000 mile, local MPV . . . £1,995



05 SKODA Fabia 1.2 5-dr
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04 NISSAN X-Trail 2.2 DCi SR 6-Spd
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Pencoed Seconds prove their mettle



ABOVE: Tom Cross chases the ball on his way to a try.

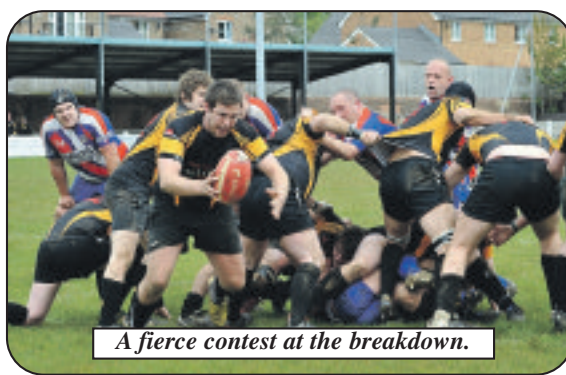
HAVING finished top of the Mid Glamorgan District League Division 1 by six points over the course of the season, the Pencoed 2nd XV confirmed their status as champions with this final league victory over Maesteg Celtic 16-7 at the Dairy Field, Llanharan.

Once again as they have done throughout the season the Pencoed pack laid the platform for victory with the front row of Christian Powell, Nathan Hill and Nicky Hawkins dominant at the set piece, ably supported by locks Dean Henson and Anthony Morris.

The back row of skipper Justin Jones, Rhys Samuel and Gary Money supplemented the efforts of their front five.

Pencoed opened the scoring, centre Liam Halse punching a hole down the middle for Celtic to concede a penalty at the resultant breakdown. Full back Tom Cross duly obliged.

Another scrum offensive put Pencoed on the



A fierce contest at the breakdown.

attack and a fine kick from Cross put his side deep into the Maesteg Celtic 22.

The Pencoed pack then drove Celtic back over their try line and somehow were denied what appeared a penalty try. Pencoed led 3-0 at the break.

Maesteg Celtic started the second half strongly, their forwards battering away at the Pencoed line, however to no avail, with Pencoed prop Powell prominent with a number of big hits to keep his try line intact.

Pencoed absorbed this

period of pressure.

Cross increased his team's lead with a well judged 40 metre penalty in the tricky wind conditions.

Maesteg Celtic were now enjoying some success at the breakdown with a number of turnovers and capitalised on a Pencoed yellow card with a converted try to lead 7-6.

Cross then kicked another well judged penalty to regain the lead. Pencoed then made things difficult for themselves picking up a second yellow card, the

defence having to work hard to keep Celtic at bay, with Halse and Samuel to the fore.

Pencoed then got the stroke of luck their 13 man defensive effort deserved, the pace of Jamie Williams, in pursuit of a long kick from Cross, set up the decisive score.

Williams caught the Celtic full back in possession, the ball breaking for the following up Cross who gleefully grasped his opportunity to put the match beyond the reach of Celtic with a converted try, and a deserved victory.

The squad, coaches Keith Burke, Steve Rees and team manager Gareth Ward are to be congratulated, not only on their final success but also the fact they have turned around the previous season's functional problems.

The squad can reflect on a fine season with just one league defeat, and an overall record of 18 wins, 5 defeats, and 1 draw.



ABOVE: Captain Justin Jones is pictured receiving the trophy.

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Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are as follows:

Wednesday, May 2: First, Dave Barwood and Jane Brook; second, Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram; third, David Bowen and David Crompton.

Friday May 4: The John Raymond Transport Cup for teams was won by John Moore and Mildred Trigg-Knight, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock. Second were Dennis Smith Sheila Storer, and Colin and Hazel

Heard; third were Mary Moore and Liam Sheridan, Chris Rawlings and Eileen Mahoney

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, there are lessons on Fridays for beginners with Graham Jones also at 7pm. Lessons for improvers will resume in the autumn. Anyone wishing to register an interest should contact Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958) or David Newman (01656 649138).

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